

BARRE GAZETTE

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Hardwick, Barre discuss EMS coverage

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK/BARRE – Hardwick Board of Selectmen vice-chair Julie Quink said she met with various representatives and fire chiefs regarding proposed emergency medical services coverage during the board's April 15 meeting. Quink said the Ware Fire Department is not interested in covering all of Hardwick, just part of it. The Barre Fire Department could also provide partial coverage at a combined assessment of \$99,500. Quink said West Brookfield Rescue Squad is the only one interested in covering the entire town. However, WBRS feels covering West Hardwick could be challenging with long response times. WBRS is only able to provide BLS services currently, not ALS. Quink said both Barre and Ware would continue to provide mutual aid.

Quink said they would meet with Barre's Board of Selectmen on April 20 to discuss possible coverage. Quink said she asked Ware if they would consider looking at their proposal again, and that Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said it would not be a significant reduction in cost.

Quink said dispatch for Hardwick is currently provided by C8 (State Police) in New Braintree and that Barre Fire Department is dispatched through Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center. She said there is good communication between C8 and RRECC, so dispatching should not be an issue.

Police Chief James Ayotte asked the board if they had call volume information from Ware, noting that if the call volume to West Hardwick was low, could that possibly reduce the cost. Quink said Ware would be covering both West Hardwick and Gilbertville, so they would still be covering most of the calls. Quink said almost \$100,000 for EMS is a significant cost for the town and could be challenging. Quink said WBRS would be significantly less for the town, but they could run into coverage issues.

Quink said Town Administrator Theresa Cofske is working with USDA on potential grants to get ambulance service back in town.

Meeting with Barre's board

The Hardwick board met with the Barre Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:15 p.m. via Zoom. Barre Chairman Greg O'Sullivan said many of the roads in Hardwick are difficult for Barre to respond to. New Barre board member Dr. Maureen Marshall said her concern was being able to cover their own town and New Braintree, in addition to Hardwick. Barre Town Administrator Jessica Sizer said that Fire Chief Robert Rogowski was unable to attend the meeting as he was on vacation.

Quink told the Barre board that Hardwick has been without an ambulance service of their own for about four years. She said they were approached by Ware years ago and entered into an agreement, with EMS services assessed at \$60,000. Quink said their current assessment is \$77,000 and there has been a lot of "healthy discussion" about what is best for Hardwick for about a year. She said Ware is only interested in covering West Hardwick and Gilbertville, and she is "hoping

See EMS COVERAGE, page 5

What a difference a few days make



Snow covers a field in Oakham on Friday, April 16. About four to six inches of wet snow fell in the area.



The same field in Oakham on Sunday, April 18 is clear of snow and sports green grass.

Turley Publications Photos by Ellenor Downer

Finance committee hears ATM update from David Nixon

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

HUBBARDSTON – Finance committee chair, Susan Rayne, asked acting town administrator, David Nixon, if he talked with his counterparts in the other Quabbin Regional School District towns regarding the school assessments at it April 7 meeting.

Nixon said for the most part other town administrators said their towns can not afford the assessment. He said they were trying to set up meeting.

Capital expenditures

The acting town administrator said total capital expenditures, if all passed, would use about \$182,000 of free cash. He said he was not sure the town had that much money in free cash and the worse cash would be to default to a Special Town Meeting in the fall. He said the town could afford the smaller expenditures on the list. Referring to the discrepancy in the free cash figure as "a bit of a tangle," he said he and the town accountant were working on the matter and should have a new free cash figure in two or three days. The issue stems from the fall town meeting and he said the lowest number would be \$62,000.

Community Preservation Act articles

Nixon said the Community Preservation

Act committee presented six articles for a total of \$250,000, which would use CPA funds, for the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for June 1. Peter Russell, new member on the finance committee, asked him to explain the Community Preservation Act. Nixon said CPA was a local options, which Hubbardston voters approved, to impose a surcharge of 1% on properties over \$100,000. The committee was made up of members from select board, conservation commission, assessors, planning board, etc. The money can be used for open space, historic preservation, affordable housing and recreation. Nixon said the town also could borrow against CPA funds.

The CPA articles included \$20,000 submitted by Habitat for Humanity for an affordable housing unit, the debt service for the Hubbardston Public Library roof, an amount toward the purchase of an Agricultural Protection Restriction on acreage located off Lombard Road. The town funds 10% and the state 90% of the purchase of development rights on the property. There were also articles for \$4,000 for administrative costs of the CPA Committee such as legal review, postage, attendance at CPA meeting, etc.; \$33,000 for interior work on the library and \$20,000 for exterior brick re-pointing and landscape of the library.

See FINANCE COMMITTEE, page 6

Mark Sawyer appointed to police department

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen was introduced to the Police Department's newest candidate for hire, Mark Sawyer at their regular meeting last week.

Sawyer, a resident of West Brookfield, was recommended by Police Chief Mark Smith for appointment to the position of full-time police officer left vacant by Officer James Early earlier in the year. Sawyer has been a full-time police officer for three years. Smith said they had three candidates apply for the position and that Sawyer came highly recommended. Smith commended Lieutenant Ryan Daley for conducting a "very thorough" background check.

Chairman Dale Kiley asked Sawyer to speak about himself. Sawyer said he grew up in the Winchendon/Gardner area before his family settled in Hubbardston. Sawyer said he has been working for the Barre Police Department and appreciates the small town feel of the Brookfields. "I like knowing my community, the people that live there; have a little bit more of a personal connection with them," he said. Sawyer said he is focused on community policing, something that he learned

during his time at the academy. Sawyer said he was excited to continue his career in North Brookfield.

Kiley asked Sawyer about a Lifesaving Medal he received last year during his time in Barre. Sawyer said he responded to an overdose call during the COVID-19 spike. The party was unconscious and had no pulse, in a car with his girlfriend in a remote area of town. Sawyer removed the victim from the vehicle and performed CPR for about eight minutes until Fire Chief Robert Rogowski arrived and administered four doses of Narcan, reviving the victim. Kiley said he likes to hear stories like that.

Clerk John Tripp read through Sawyer's resume, seeing his interest in drumming and various sports. Sawyer said he is hoping to get back into coaching, saying he coached for Gardner High School in the past. Tripp said they would like to get the youth involved with the police department. Sawyer also does work with canines.

The board unanimously appointed Sawyer to the position of full-time police officer to start as soon as possible. The board welcomed Sawyer aboard the police department. Smith said they hope to do a community "meet and greet" at some point in the future.

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

Local stitchers group donates Afghans to Camp Putnam

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

GILBERTVILLE – Every Thursday afternoon a group of women gather at the Gilbertville Public Library to knit and crochet.

The group known as the Naughty but Nice Stitchers dates back 12 years. Chloe Moriarty a member of the group and a library trustee for many years, has come since the beginning along with librarian Linda Payne, Evelyn LaBelle with 10 years and Eleanor Czabaj with five years. Newer members include Lynne Deschamps, Paula Abair and Paula Peloquin. Members not present last Thursday are Carol Reed, Connie Roxi, Claire Stelmokas and Susan Saletnik.

The Afghan project consisting of between 45 to 50 benefits campers at Camp Putnam in New Braintree. In response to why the group selected Camp Putnam, member Lynne Deschamps says, "It is the best camp around." There is a need since the camp

serves many sliding scale campers and never turns away a child, who cannot pay.

Heather Stewart, representing Camp Putnam, says if a camper comes without a blanket or sleeping bag, the camp has a supply of old Army blankets for him or her to use. Now campers, who need a blanket, receive an Afghan and get to take it home with them. Stewart says, "They are thrilled to have them."

Heather Stewart says, "Camp Putnam will be open in some form this year, but will accept fewer campers this year." The camp accommodates up to 25 campers in each of the four villages, two for girls and two for boys. It accepts ages 6 to 12 years old. Stewart says, "[It] is an old-fashioned camp" offering arts and crafts, sports and games, swimming in its pool and boating on the pond. It also has a day camp session in addition to the overnight sessions.

The ambitious stitchers also make mittens, hats, scarves and even sweaters for

See STITCHERS, page 8



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

Heather Stewart of Camp Putnam, from left, receives Afghans from Gilbertville Public Library librarian, Linda Payne and a member of the Naughty But Nice Stitchers for campers at the summer camp in New Braintree.



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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Post 2 to hold men’s Bocci league

American Legion Post 2 is looking to rebuild the Barre Men’s Bocce League. There are three Bocce Courts behind the American Legion Post #2 at 450 South Barre Road. At one time about three years ago, Post #2 had six teams with six players each. Games are on Mondays at 6 p.m. and start date is scheduled for May 3. Cost is \$5 per week so prizes may be awarded at the end of the season for first, second and third place finishing teams. Men interested in playing on a team should call 978-355-4002.

Farmers’ market

The Barre Farmers’ Market opens Saturday, May 1 on the Barre Common. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and features local farmers, crafters and more. The market will be open Saturdays May through October.

Church supper

The supper committee of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a drive thru chicken dinner Saturday, May 1 with pickup 5-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child under 12. People must call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140 for reservations. Dinner includes salad, chicken half, corn, potato and a desert. This dinner is a fundraiser for the church.

Local organic farmers to host workshop

BARRE – Many Hands Organic Farm will be hosting a workshop regarding organic small fruit production on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the farm on Sheldon Road. Participants will learn seed starting and planting protocols from greenhouse to hoophouse to field. They will start seeds inside, plant in the field and also spend some time on the theories and practice, which don’t always conform with the norm on how to get plants off on their best footing and keep them thriving throughout the season. Registration is available on the Many Hands Organic Farm website at mhof.net/events-workshops.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of April 26.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Chicken Picatta, rice pilaf, roasted broccoli, lemon pudding, diet = sugar free tapioca pudding, pumpernickel bread

TUES. – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, Scandinavian vegetables, pineapple, corn muffin

WED. – Marinated pork lion, cornbread stuffing, roasted California vegetables, baked cinnamon pears, whole wheat bread

THURS. – BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, corn niblets, fresh fruit, pumpernickel bread

FRI. – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, cookie, Italian bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert
**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Tom turkey struts during mating season



A Tom turkey displays its tail feathers while a hen looks on at Pine Grove Cemetery in Hubbardston recently.

Turley Publications Courtesy Photo by Paula Paquette

A history of Curtis Recreational Field

By Jane McCauley

HUBBARDSTON – Most of the spring and summer you will find a large group of people using the Curtis Recreational Field, Route 68 in Hubbardston. It is used by youngsters on the playground, baseball, soccer, basketball, bandstand. The Lions Club holds their annual Field day there and several musical concerts were held there. This year a special town meeting was held there because they needed to be in open air.

In 1986 the members at Town Meeting voted to purchase these eleven acres for \$55,000. In September of 1988, voters approved the project and appropriated \$50,000 to begin construction. The Fort Devens 39th Engineer Battalion was contact-

ed and agreed to help the town as part of their Public Service Project. Twenty-two servicemen worked on the first phase of the project involving site engineering, drainage, landscaping and seeding the field. They proved the labor and equipment for several months at no charge to the Town. It was estimated by the Corps of Engineers that this service saved the Town approximately \$200,000. Hubbardston did spend \$46,153.75 for expenses. Local business and individuals also contributed \$6,300 to the phase one project.

A basketball court and tennis court are still in the planning stages. When the tennis court that was installed at the Leonard Field at Center School by the Camsters Auto Club the Town Fathers agreed to replace it at the

Curtis Recreational Field when a playground was made in the same location at Center School. The basketball court as also taken away at Center School at the same time when the school had the addition.

The playground was installed by volunteers at a great savings. A walking path has been constructed going around the field and next to the bandstand which was installed by the local Lions Club. The Nonesuch Garden Club installed the landscaping around the Bandstand.

The whole project has been a community effort and was named for Theodore Curtis, who was a selectman for many years and was on the original Recreational Field Committee with Dennis O’Donnell, Phillip Laine and Raymond Turcotte.

Bigelow library lists upcoming events

On Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. the Bigelow Free Public Library presents “Armchair Travels with Steve Farrar-Exploring the Alaskan National Parks” Zoom presentation. This will be the last one of an armchair traveling via Zoom series with travel expert Steve Farrar. In this presentation, participants will explore the national parks system in Alaska, which includes the Glacier Bay, Wrangell-St. Elias, Kenai Fjords, Lake Clark, Katmai, Kobuk Valley, Gates of the Arctic and Denali national parks. People will learn about them and find out what to look for when they travel there. People should register at http://bigelowlibrary.

org/calendar/to receive the Zoom meeting invitation.

On Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. the library will host A Taste of Ayurveda with Claire Ragozzino- Kapha Zoom resenation. Combing physical, psychological and spiritual health, Ayurveda focuses on whole body healing based on a person’s individual body type or “dosha.” Ayurvedic practitioners believe there are three major doshas (Vata, Kapha and Pitta) and by understanding and balancing the needs of a particular primary dosha leads to a better quality of life.

Tonight’s presentation by Claire Ragozzino (https://vidyaliving.com/) will be focused

on the Kapha dosha. People may register to learn more about what kind of diet, exercise and meditative techniques might help them feel healthy and grounded if their primary dosha is Kapha. This program is part of the Everyone is Welcome at the Table series funded by the Institute of Museum of Library Services administered by the Board of Library Commissioners.

People may register at http://bigelowlibrary.org/calendar/ to receive the Zoom meeting invitation.

For more information, people may contact the Bigelow Free Public Library at 978-365-4061 or mfournier@cwmars.org.

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Alpaca farm hosts spring fling

Plain View Alpaca Farm, 130 Gardner Road, (Rte 68), will host a spring fling Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People are invited to join Deb and Keith Tetreault for some fun and shopping at their family owned and operated Alpaca Farm. The alpacas and vendor tents will be seen from the road. Rain date is Sunday, April 25. There will be many vendors and lots of alpacas, food, crafts, honey, maple syrup and more. Mathilde Duffy will have new cards, bookmarks and magnets featuring many new animals. She will also be at the Barre Farmers’ Market, which opens Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Barre Common, Barre.

Hikes planned at Fieldstone farm

Hubbardston Open Space Committee and East Quabbin Land Trust invite individuals and families for a community hike at Fieldstone Farm on Lombard Road. The one-mile walk begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24. Rain date is Sunday, April 25. People will have another opportunity to enjoy this trail on Saturday, May 22 at 1 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, May 23. Fieldstone Farm is near the Audubon Society in Princeton. Eventually the hope is to connect with the Mid State Trail and Mt. Wachusett.

Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Free fishing derby set for May 1

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Sportsman’s Club in conjunction with the North Brookfield Police Department, are sponsoring a free childrens’ fishing derby on Saturday, May 1 at North Brookfield Town Forest Park, off Rte. 67, 26-28 West Brookfield Road. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the derby will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Town Forest pond will be stocked with trout for children ages 5-15 to catch. Children do not need to reside in North Brookfield to attend; all are welcome. Prizes will be awarded.

‘Kindergarten readiness kits’ offered

BARRE – MOC will offer “Kindergarten Readiness Kits” to CFCE families, who have children entering kindergarten in the fall 2021.

The kits are funded by the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care and offer a variety of tools needed to help teach counting, addition and subtraction, word building, handwriting, beginning reading and much more. The kits are available to families from the towns of Barre, Hardwick, Oakham, New Braintree, Hubbardston, Gardner, Templeton, Fitchburg, Ashburnham and Westminster.

Families may register at www.mocinc.org/kindergartenkit. After registration, a CFCE coordinator will reach out to coordinate pick-up and confirm the date for the virtual parent workshop, which accompanies the kits. Workshops are being offered May 19 at 6 p.m. and June 9 at 6 p.m. For more information, parents or guardians may contact mmacewen@mocinc.org, kleclair@mocinc.org, cdavis@mocinc.org or clapinskias@mocinc.org.

Paige Memorial Library offers browsing appointments

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, is now open for browsing by appointment with restrictions due to Covid. People may visit the library website at http://www.paigelibrary.com/ for details.

The appointment hours are Tuesday and Thursday 3-6 p.m., Wednesday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon.

Assistance with appointments and other questions is available during regular hours, Tuesday and Thursday 2-7 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m..

Patrons must be free from symptoms of infection, wear a mask covering mouth and nose and practice social distancing.

Books are quarantined, touched surfaces are wiped down between appointments. Scanning, copying, printing are available with the assistance of staff. Curbside service will continue. Computers are not available at this time. The children’s area is closed, but parents may check out books, movies and materials. Restrooms are not available at this time.

People may call 413-477-6704 to make an appointment or place an order.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Cemetery Commission – April 22 at 11 a.m.
Board of Health – April 24 at 8 a.m. and May 10 at 5 p.m.
QRSD School Committee – April 27 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Committee – April 27 at 7 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – May 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – May 5 at 1 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – May 6 at 3 p.m.
QRSD Special Ed Subcommittee – May 7 at 9 a.m.
Water Commission – May 10 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – May 10 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – May 18 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – May 20 at 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – May 26 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – June 8 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Selectmen – April 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Finance Committee – April 26 at 5:30 p.m.
Personnel Committee – April 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Planning Board – April 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – May 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – May 6 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – May 10 at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging – May 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – May 14 at 4 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Select Board – April 26, May 10 and May 24 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – April 27 and May 25 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – May 1 at 10 a.m.
Conservation Commission – May 4 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Advisory Finance Committee – April 22 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – April 22 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – April 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – May 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – May 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Board of Health – May 6 and May 20 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – May 13 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – May 20 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 22 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board Public Hearing – April 27 at 6:55 p.m.
Planning Board Public Hearing – April 27 at 7:20 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Annual Town Meeting – May 8 at 6 p.m.
Annual Town Election – May 10 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

Due to snow, the Earth Day River Cleanup on April 17 will now occur on Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at Laviolette Field, Three Rivers.

The Three County Fair, Northampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more information, people may visit www.3countyfair.com.

With the current and near future Covid 19 parameters from the CDC, the Home Builder & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, along with the Eastern States Exposition, has postponed the March Home Show 2021: the “Original” Western Mass Home and Garden Show to Aug. 20 – 22, 2021. The new date will allow for the utmost personal safety for guest & vendors, allow full building occupancy, and reflect the true show attendance numbers of their past shows

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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What Do Old Friends Talk About?

By Carole Gariepy

At last there’s something social on my calendar -- lunch with my old high school girlfriends. There used to be five of us for these special occasions, now we’re only three, Mary Alice Pollard, Shirley Avery and me (Carole Gariepy).. It’s a reminder to treasure our friends while we have them, and don’t put off opportunities to keep connected or it may be too late.

We all had our two vaccine shots and felt comfortable about meeting for lunch. The five of us always made it a point to get together at least once or twice a year, and we each prepared one of our best dishes to make it a special lunch for the special occasion. Now we’re in our 80s and each of us brings our own food because of dietary restrictions. Nevertheless, the get-together is just as special, and it felt even more special this year because Covid prevented us from meeting last year, the first year we missed a get-together since we graduated from high school in 1955.

It’s interesting to reflect on the topics of discussion we had through the years and how conversation centered around our life’s stages. During college years we talked about school and the men in our lives. Then, it was engagements, showers, marriage. We all got married quite young, as was typical in those years -- no living together before marriage then. Next, our lunch discussions would be about babies, followed by toilet training, and raising children, always cooking and health topics were important to share. Our kids’ teen years, and especially when our kids got their driver’s licenses, were stressful times and our support for each other was helpful. Fortunately, we all had good husbands, each with some hobbies and interests that were fun to hear about. Our children’s doings were always a topic of conversation, our work or volunteer outreach was a subject we wanted to



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo

These women have been friends since elementary school. They are back row from left, Mary Alice Pollard, Betty Snyder and Shirley Avery and front row from left, Carole Gariepy and Sandy Allen.

catch up on, then the grandchildren. The grandchildren -- that’s when we started sharing photos. I think of the bumper sticker that says, “If I’d known what a pleasure grandchildren would be, I’d have had them first.” Now, in our 80s, it’s great grandchildren. We can’t be as active with them as we were with the grandchildren, but we find it very satisfying to see the new generations come along and observe our own children in the grandparent role.

We girls kept connected with caring, interest, and support for over 70 years, through all the emotional ups and downs that accompanies everyone’s life. Can you guess what the central topic of conversation was this year?

Yes, Covid 19. It’s the main topic of conversation for everyone all over the world. As we talked we realized that this lonely, depressing, worrisome time has made us more appreciative of the everyday things we always took for granted. Never before did we appreciate being able to welcoming people into our homes or feel safe to visit them. We didn’t appreciate being able to go shopping, attend a meeting, visit some-

one in a nursing home or the hospital, go to a museum, or go to church. As well as gaining a deeper appreciation for the things that had been normal in our lives, we did talk about being thankful during this period for more time to read and more time to spend with God. Some good comes from everything. We are thankful at last to be able to visit with each other without wearing a mask and are anxious for the day to come when everyone will be vaccinated so the comfort we felt being together can be felt by everyone everywhere.

The years go by fast. My grandmother used to tell me that the older she got, the faster the years went by. I thought she was crazy to say that. How could time go faster at one age than another? Now I feel the same way. My husband Gerry says, “Time flies, but we only walk.” Because time seems to fly, we want to be sure to spend our time wisely. I’m thankful that we girlfriends, since elementary school, once again had an opportunity to be together to continue sharing in the stages of life, and hope our example of maintaining, appreciating, and nurturing friendships will be passed on to our descendants.

Gardner Museum lists lecture series

GARDNER – All events run from 7-8 pm after a museum-hosted reception from 6:30-7 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Reservation is required for every event. Admission for non-member adults is \$3, unless otherwise noted.

On Thursday, May 13 the program will be “Glimpses of white-tailed deer.” Wildlife photographer Bill Fournier will share his up-close images and experiences with the

smallest members of the North American deer family. On Thursday, May 20 the program will be “Gardner’s lost railroads and train stations.” It will be a joint presentation by local railroad buffs under the leadership of Chuck Heidorn. On Thursday, May 27 the topic is “Birds of New England and the Quabbin Reservoir.” Dale Monette, local birder and nature photographer and retired educator and naturalist with the

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, will present wildlife images, focusing on birds that visit New England, and birds and mammals that live here and call New England home. Both of his books, “Secret Lives of the Quabbin Watershed” and “Voyagers, Visitors and Home,” will be available for purchase at the program and signed on request by the author.

Have Something to Share?

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Collection held for Cradles to Crayons

Gavin Majoy, a Project 351 alumni ambassador will hold a clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons goes to make a “Kid Pack,” which is a week’s worth of outfits for a child. The “Kid-pack” includes: four shirts, two pairs of pants, one package of underwear, a package of socks, a sweater or sweatshirt, a pair of shoes and one set of pajamas. Cradles to Crayons is asking Project 351 to reach out to communities to gather donations of new or “like new” clothing sizes newborn to youth large (10-12) (new socks, new underwear and new pajamas are also welcome. He will have a collection box for any items donated at the Oakham Congregational Church starting Sunday, April 25 to Sunday, May 16. Any new or “like new” clothing sizes newborn to youth large (10/12) including new socks, new underwear or new pajamas is greatly appreciated. The box will be located in the hallway of the side door of the church. The outside door is open at all times.

Preschool registration

Children who will be three or four years of age prior to Sept. 1, 2021 are eligible to attend. For registration information, people may visit the Quabbin Regional School District website www.qrsd.org or email jbennett@qrsd.org. Preschool in the QRSD is free of charge.

Kindergarten screening

Kindergarten screening for incoming kindergartners will be held Friday, June 4th. Parents will be contacted in regard to the screening process as well as to schedule a screening appointment. Registration paperwork should be completed prior to the screening date. Registration packets are available on the district website or at Oakham Center School. Please call Mary in the school office for more information at 508-882-3392.

Walk to school

Wednesday, April 28 Oakham Center School students in grades K-5 who would like to join the walk to school should be at the library between 7:50 and 8 a.m. They will begin walking to school at 8 a.m. sharp.

Town election information

Christine Mardirosian, town clerk, announces the last day to register to vote in the town election set for Monday, May 17 is Tuesday, April 27. The following positions will be on the ballot: three-year term for selectman, town clerk, assessor, board of health, library trustee, cemetery commission, school committee and tree warden; two-year term for assessor and cemetery commission; one-year term constable and five-year term planning board.

Church news

The Oakham Congregational Church will hold in person Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Social distancing will be followed and masks must be worn. Sunday School meets downstairs in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

When can I get benefits from my ex-spouse?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I know that I am able to get Social Security from my ex-husband. We were married for 16 years and I have not remarried. I will be 60 soon and he is 63. I do not know if he is retired yet, as we do not speak. Please advise when I can collect and how to go about the process. Signed: Divorced Lady

Dear Divorced Lady: Since you were married to your ex for more than 10 years and haven't remarried, you may be able to collect a spousal benefit from your ex-husband when you are 62-years-old. Your eligibility will depend upon the amount of your own personal Social Security benefit compared to your ex's benefit amount, but you cannot collect an ex-spouse benefit before age 62. To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, you must also claim your personal Social Security from your own lifetime work record, and when you claim your own benefit, an ex-spouse benefit will be given, if you are entitled to one.

To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, your personal Social Security retirement benefit at your own full retirement age (FRA) must be less than 50% of the benefit your ex-husband would get at his FRA (note that FRA amounts are used for this determination, regardless of the age at which either of you claim Social Security). If your FRA benefit amount is less than half of his FRA benefit amount, then you will be entitled to a "spousal boost" to bring your total payment up to your spousal entitlement. But taken at age 62, both of those amounts will be reduced.

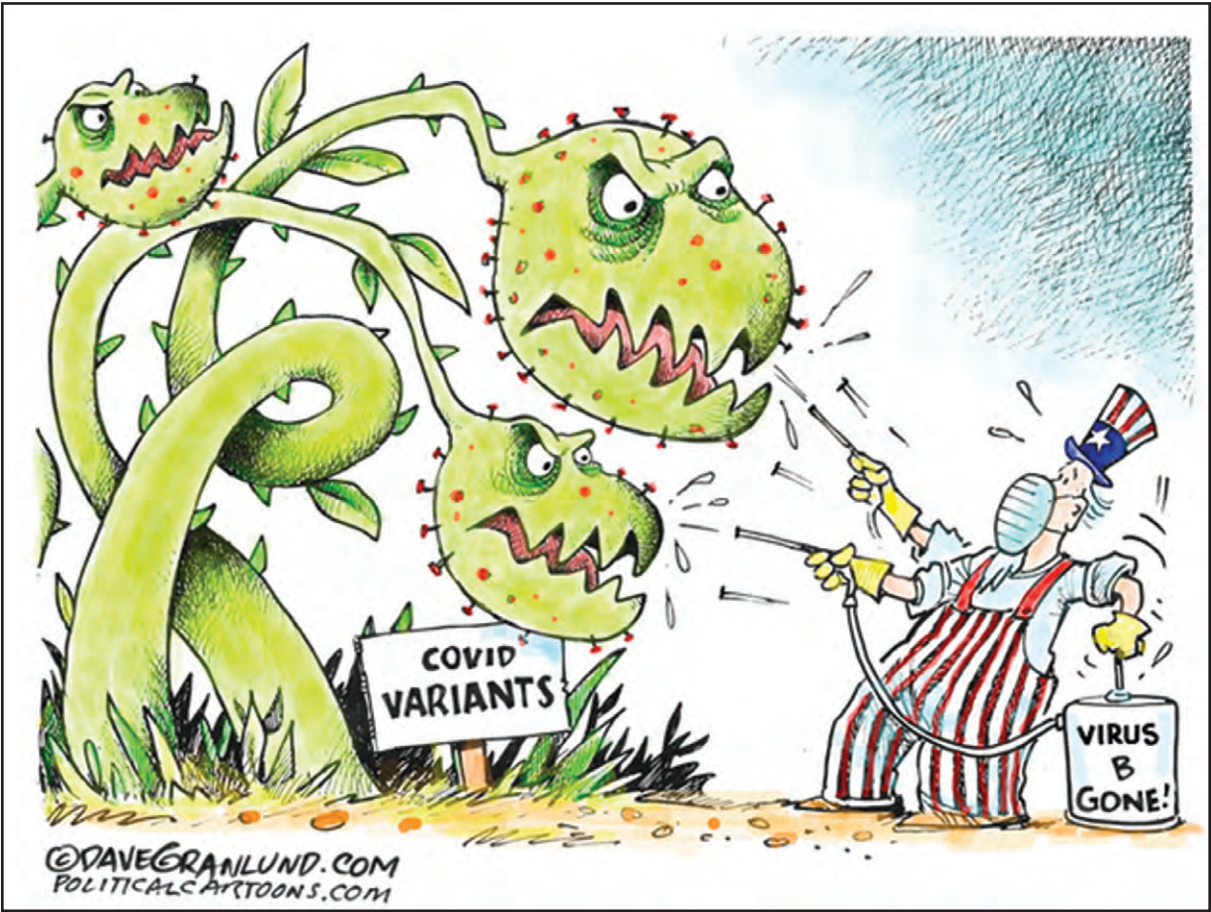
Your full retirement age is 67, and if you claim any Social Security benefit before that it will be reduced. At 62, your personal Social Security retirement benefit will be cut by 30% and your spousal boost will also be reduced. So, at age 62, the total amount of benefit you could get (your own benefit plus your spousal boost) would be about 32.5% of your ex-husband's FRA benefit amount. Nonetheless, if you are comfortable with these benefit reductions, you can claim at age 62, or any age thereafter, by contacting Social Security or, when the time comes, apply online at www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits. You will need to provide Social Security with a copy of your marriage certificate and your final divorce decree, and you will need to know your ex-husband's Social Security number. If you do not know his Social Security number, you'll need to provide his parents' names and his date and place of birth.

If you wish to find out in advance whether you're entitled to an ex-spouse benefit and how much it is estimated to be, you can contact Social Security at 1.800-772-1213, or call your local Social Security office. You can find the local office number at www.ssa.gov/locator. Please note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to public access due to the pandemic, so calling them is your best current option to get an estimate of your spousal benefit.

One final caution: if you claim Social Security before your full retirement age and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



In Past Pages

5 years ago (April 28, 2016)

The Barre Farmers' Market opens Saturday, May 7 from 9 a.m. to noon on the lawn and parking lot of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St The market runs every Saturday May through October There will be maple syrup, honey, flowers, plants, eggs, meat, milk and other dairy products, crafts and baked goods.

Police Chief Erik Demetropoulos and John Dipilato of the Public Safety Building Committee recommended selectmen award the bid for the public safety building to the low bidder, P & P Construction of Charlton. Acting on the committee's recommendation, selectmen awarded the bid to P & P. Its bid was \$2,441,447 and included three alternates. Chief Demetropoulos said the architect was confident the project could be completed within the three million budget. The town received \$3 million from the state to build a public safety building. The board expressed thanks to former state Senator Stephen Brewer for his efforts in acquiring the funding for the town. Town administrator, Heather Lemieux, estimated the construction start date to be late May or early June.

Highway superintendent, C. Kevin Currier and selectmen discussed the sidewalks on Maple Street. Currier said the sidewalks on Maple Street were a "gray area" as some residents claim they owned the sidewalk in front of their homes and others said the town did. He said if the town owned the sidewalks, he recommended eliminating the sidewalk on the left side of Maple Street as the telephone poles were on that side and just keeping the one the right side. He suggested the selectmen talk with the property owners or write them a letter regarding ownership. Another option would be to check the deeds to see who owns the sidewalks.

10 years ago (April 28, 2011)

The 60th Annual National Day of Prayer will be observed locally on the Barre Center Common at noon on Thursday, May 5. Nancy Gromelski, local organizer, stated that this year's theme, "A Might Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 91.2.

The Quabbin Community Band invites current and interested new members to the first rehearsal of the upcoming 2011 summer season on Monday, May 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Quabbin Regional High School band room. Artistic director and conductor Peter Lewis is excited to once again bring together musicians of the surrounding communities to create and rehearse

LOOK BACK
Barre Fair - 1986



A picture perfect landing was made by one of the skydivers to the delight of the onlookers.

uture programs for the public to listen and enjoy. Concerts are held every Sunday evening at the Harding Allen Bandstand on the Barre Common beginning Father's Day, June 19 and running until Aug. 14.

Dr. Allen Russell has traveled all over the world searching for dinosaur fossils and studying them. "Dinosaurs are really just a form of a big lizard and some of them weren't that big," said Russell. He said there are dinosaurs that he has never heard of. "You know why? Because we are finding them all the time. And some of them we haven't even named yet. We just have a bunch of bones." Russell visited the Woods Memorial Library on April 21 to discuss dinosaurs, as part of the library's school vacation programs.

25 years ago (April 25, 1996)

It was Wednesday of school vacation week and 14 year old twins, Christopher and Cory Bernard of West Street and their friend, Joshua Cabot of Woods Road, also 14, were looking for some excitement. A fun morning began with fishing at 5 a.m., followed by a hike at Barre Falls Dam with the Bernard's parents, Mark and Robin. The boys then decided to canoe the river. Mark and the boys put the canoe in at the "singing bridge" in South Barre. They were about 100 yards from Silver Bridge in Hardwick and the end of their trip when the current took them toward a tree sticking out of the embankment. We ducked our heads to avoid the tree and the canoe turned sideways with this shifting of weight and tipped. Mark

and Corey got out of the water and Corey went for help. Within minutes, help came in all directions. Hardwick Officer Thomas Petrone was first on the scene and rescued Chris, who was clinging to a tree branch. Massachusetts Electric workers rescued Joshua, who floated further down the river. All four were wearing lifejackets.

Selectmen heard complaints Monday night about flooding behind the Bradford Apartments in South Barre. Romeo Salvadore of Main Street in South Barre said the Ware River is at extremely high level and there has been a lot of flooding in the area where he lives. He said three feet of the embankment near his home has eroded away and there has been water in his cellar and other cellars of homes in the area. Salvadore called the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Barre Falls Dam in an attempt to resolve the problem. He spoke with Paul Martinelli there and asked him to "shut the water down," but Martinelli refused to give the order to hold back the water. Salvadore said when the water is high, it is supposed to be directed to the Quabbin Reservoir, but now the environmentalists are saying this is not a good idea because this water is dirty and won't purify itself. Selectmen will contact the Army Corps of Engineers in an attempt to resolve the problem.

Dr. Joseph Richard Stenger has been re certified a diplomate of the American Board of Family Practice, the certifying entity of the family practice specialty. Dr. Stenger, a family physician, earned diplomate status by passing the ABFP's certification examination, an intensive written test of the physician's abilities in pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, psychiatry, prevention and other aspects of family practice.

38 years ago (April 28, 1983)

Daniel R. Kirkpatrick, Chairman of the Fiance

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Letter to Editor

Project 351 alumni member plans clothing drive

I hope that you and your families are all staying safe and healthy at this time. I am reaching out to you to ask for your help once again. I was selected to be a Project 351 Ambassador for the town of New Braintree, last year, and continue to be a part of this organization as an Alumni Member. Project 351 is a youth service nonprofit organization that develops a rising generation of community first leaders.

In the next few weeks, I will be leading a clothing drive dedicated to collecting new or "like new" clothing for Cradles to Crayons. Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth to age 12, living in homeless or low income situations, with essential items they need to thrive-at home, at school, and at play. They supply these items free of charge by engaging and connecting communities across the commonwealth through service and generosity.

The clothing that is donated to Cradles to Crayons goes to make a "Kid Pack", which is a week's worth of outfits for a child. The "Kid-pack" includes: 4 shirts, 2 pairs of pants, 1 package of underwear, a package of socks, 1 sweater or sweatshirt, a pair of shoes, and 1 set of PJS.

Cradles to Crayons is asking Project 351 to reach out to communities to gather donations of new or "like new" clothing sizes newborn to youth large (10-12) (new socks, new underwear, and new pajamas are also welcome)

I will have a collection box for any items donated at the Oakham Congregational Church starting Sunday, April 25 to Sunday, May 16. Any new or "like new" clothing sizes newborn to youth large (10/12) including new socks, new underwear, or new pajamas is greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for helping me and for helping many people in need.

Sincerely,
Gavin Majoy
New Braintree
Alumni Ambassador 2020

How to submit photos and news to the Barre Gazette

Readers, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send the Barre Gazette their hometown news and photos.

News items and press releases should be sent in an e-mail to barrenews@turley.com as either a Microsoft Word document attachment or pasted directly into the e-mail message screen. Be sure to include who, what, when, where and why in the submission, preferably written in the third person unless it is a letter to the editor or guest column.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in the image(s) from left to right and include first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.

E-mail uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off the camera or sized at least 6 inches wide at 200 resolution, no larger than 1 megabyte.

They may be e-mailed as attachments to barrenews@turley.com or faxed to 413-967-6009. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday and e-mailed copy noon on Monday. Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

The Barre Gazette will respond to all e-mail messages received. People may call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505 for help and suggestions. People who do not have e-mail may mail these materials to: Ellenor Downer, Editor, Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

With the eight inches of snow on Friday and Saturday we sure did not look like spring on Serenity Hill. It was very pretty and I took some pictures of the snow clinging on the trees. On Friday night it was sleeting so I did not bring in my pots of pansies as I did not want to fall on the deck. They look like they survived after I removed the snow from the pots. The poor daffodils got bent over but maybe those in bud will survive. They call this “Poor man’s fertilizer,” but we really don’t need any more.

I spent Saturday making water-color pictures and some greeting cards. I really don’t need any more, but I will donate them to one of my favorite clubs.

I did make a batch of chocolate chip cookies as the cupboard was getting sort of bare. I need to get groceries.

With the apples that the Hubbardston Senior Center gave us one week I plan to make this recipe that came from my favorite cook book from Heywood Hospital in Gardner

Audrey’s Apple Bread

1 cup salad oil
3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 teaspoons baking powder
3 cups diced apples
1/2 cup nuts (optional)

Grease and flour two 5 by 8 inch bread pans. Mix all ingredients in the order listed. Bake in a 300 degree oven for 55 minutes.

Test with toothpick or cake tester. Wrap in foil while still warm. This is important the recipe says. This makes two generous loaves. I use nuts, but you do not have to use nuts.

This and That

I went to the dentist for my semi-annual check up and the same day had wax removed from my right ear so I can hear again.

Before the snow came, I was getting the gardens cultivated and weeded as some grass was all

ready growing. A few of the older hostas were showing their points so I divided some and put the extras in a holding bed to use wherever I need some later.

Now that the buds are coming out on the roses I trimmed some of the bushes. I also fertilized them and put some extra aged manure on them.

I finished mulching the bushes and raking and will mulch the hosta bed when they all come up.

We did burn a large pile of brush, but there is so much more to burn. The oaks and pines sure took a beating this winter.

I’m hoping to get up to the Curtis Field for a good walk when the snow melts.

The Girl Scouts held a good bottle and can collection on Saturday, but the town wide clean up was cancelled due to the snow.

The Hubbardston Senior Center is now opened with limited capacity. They are also holding classes in making May baskets and watercolors. Have a good week.

Enjoy Earth Day while rethinking your gardening practices

Die-hard gardeners celebrate Earth Day year round. I feel. We take pleasure in our yards and the bounty our gardens produce. But when the formal holiday of April 22nd approaches, I pause, analyze my own practices and make sure they are still in tune with my beliefs. While not a purist, I generally try to tread lightly on Mother Earth. I encourage you to take inventory this week as well, and if so inspired, adopt some of the following ideals borrowed from previous columns and add them to your own routines.

Feed the soil, not the plant. Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phosphate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient storehouses. Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.

Start a compost pile. Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and give it a turn; after a few days turn it again. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter. No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of “black gold.”

Make compost tea. Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with “blue water,” perk them up with home-brewed compost tea. Mix one part well-rotted compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants. Or, take a cup of the manure, pop it in a square of muslin and let it steep in a five gallon bucket. Fill your watering can no straining necessary.

Shop Mom and Pop. Develop a

relationship with the garden center you buy your plants and gardening supplies from. Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options. A friend of mine pestered one local company so much that they now carry everything I mentioned above as well as organic livestock feed.

Reduce, reuse, recycle! I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I’d like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow next years crop. If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some homegrown seedlings and recycle the rest. I sure do, and when they get old and tattered I double them up! An even better solution for earth-conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use the least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs. Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot, the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you choose a chemical option, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking! We especially worry about our pollinator populations these days.

Conserve water. We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of mois-

ture lost to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do? For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest. Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year’s time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty through the growing season. This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic, all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the offseason. I just thawed out some roasted peppers for dinner tonight. It is a good feeling. Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

Enjoy Earth Day while rethinking your gardening practices.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

Last week, I was a very naughty cat and had to be scolded several times. So I decided to be on my best behavior this week, as an angel with pure innocence. I doubt if you believe that. I have stayed out of Missy’s way and at night I have been up on the magazine rack next to her as she reads or watches TV. I have purred very loudly each night for her and she seems to like that.

I guess I fell asleep last night, as the next thing I knew Missy poked me and said it was time to go to bed. So I hopped down and went in on the bed. After she got



into bed, we cuddled for a while. I like to cuddle, but don’t pick me up. Missy only does that when we have to go to the vets.

After breakfast the next morning, she informed me she was going shopping with her daughter. Hurray, I have been an angel long enough.

I know Missy has a big bag of something on the floor in the sewing room and I need to check that out. There is a smaller bag on top, which I will pull off the big bag. The bag isn’t tied and opens quickly for me. Woo, what is all this stuff? There is nothing small, but large pieces of clothe, which

she uses on her rugs. Darn, I can crawl in the bag, but that is no fun.

I will check the small bag. There seems to be lots of small pieces, which I can pull out of it. Whoopee, I had just pulled out a few pieces when the door flew open and in came Missy. “I forgot the sweater, which I was going to exchange,” she says and then, “Oh, Gertrude what a mess you have made. I don’t have time to stop now and pick things up.” Wow, no scolding. I wonder just how bad it will be later. I better hurry and take some of those pieces into the computer room for my trinket box. That should make it look pretty. And now for a nap.

Love,
Gertrude

EMS COVERAGE, continued from page 1

Barre would consider partnering with Hardwick,” and cover the rest of the town. O’Sullivan asked if Quink knew the percentage of calls covered by insurance and Quink said she would ask for that data from Ware.

Both O’Sullivan and Marshall expressed concern about being able to provide services to their own residents plus Hardwick’s with only two ambulances. Marshall noted that many roads in Hardwick, particularly Shunpike and Old Petersham, were diffi-

cult to travel, especially in winter. Marshall said there was also the added strain of Mary Lane Hospital closing this year.

Sizer said Rogowski recognizes that Barre provides service to Hardwick already and would like to make it a formal deal. Sizer said she is trying to secure a rapid response vehicle through grants to assist in emergency response. Quink said Hardwick is also considering getting a “fly car” to help respond to emergency scenes. Sizer said Rogowski’s main concern with a potential partnership with West Brookfield Rescue Squad was the fact it can only

provide BLS and they are not in a neighboring town. Quink said Ware will still provide mutual aid regardless of the direction they take.

The Barre board said they would talk with Rogowski about how this would affect his staffing. Quink said they would like to have an agreement in place by July 1 and hope that Ware will “hang in” with them until they do. “Time is of the essence, but it needs to be a good fit for everybody,” Quink said. Both boards agreed to meet on May 3, and include Rogowski in the conversation.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Committee, approached the Barre Board of Selectmen Monday night on behalf of the committee to ask if the Annual Town Meeting could be postponed from its present date of May 21 to a date later in June. The finance committee feels that more time is necessary to determine the amount of state aid the town will receive. The selectmen agreed with Kirkpatrick and are in favor of postponing the town meeting. Before taking any action on the matter, the selectmen would like to check with Town Counsel James F. Baird to see if this move is possible. Chairman Stephen M.

Brewer said that the board will make a decision at next week’s regular meeting.

Peter Donahue District Engineer for the State Department of Public Works presented New Braintree selectmen with preliminary plans for the reconstruction of Route 67. He reported that the final funding for the project is expected from the Federal government later this year and that actual construction could start as early as the spring or summer of 1984. Donahue suggested that selectmen begin the process of taking the necessary land for the project from property owners. This would involve asking the property owners to voluntarily donate their

property or in those cases when property owners refuse to donate, the necessary land will be taken by Eminent Domain.

Saturday night “Snoopy” will be presented at Quabbin Regional High School by the Quabbin Music Theater Class at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The cast for the play includes Randy as Snoopy, Richard Stevens as Charlie Brown, Justin McGonigle as Linus, Mia Catalini as Lucy, Pauline Hammond as Sally, Amy Jefferson as Peppermint Patty and Kelly Waite as Woodstock. Tickets can be bought at the door, \$2.50 adults and \$1.50 students.

do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

2021Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also

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Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Town of Barre DPW 441 Wheelwright Rd Barre, MA 01005 no later than 4pm on Thursday, April 29, 2020. Employment applications can be downloaded from www.townofbarre.com. For further information, please contact Shannon O’Connor at (978) 355-5013 or via email at dpw@townofbarre.com A.A./E.O.E. Employer

Hardwick

Hardwick youth experience the arts at Workshop13

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer
HARDWICK/WARE – Fourteen youth, who attend Hardwick Youth Center, a free program for children residing in Hardwick and its villages, held a small art exhibition for their families last Thursday at Workshop13 in Ware. These youth have been taking a weekly art class at both Workshop13 and ClayWorks since December, only missing a few weeks due to holidays and weather. Hardwick Youth Center was formed 35 years ago, as a joint effort by parents and involved community members. In the first 25 years of its existence, the center provided a safe, fun place for teenagers to spend time and socialize. Now, the HYC provides programming to children through age 19, with an afterschool program for grades K to 12, and a MOC Coordinated Family and Community Engagement playgroup for children up to age 5, all located on the top floor of the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building. Youth Commissioner Elizabeth Reilly said HYC serves more than 100 member children and families.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way HYC’s programs are available to youth, with the MOC CFCE playgroup meeting on Zoom every Friday morning from 10 to 10:30 a.m., and the afterschool program exploring the beautiful, rural landscape for which Hardwick is known. HYC Director Laurie Desjardins said, “we have only been able to (in-person) serve our sixth through 12th-graders due to the difficulty of social distancing of younger groups. We spent our time outdoors hiking, fishing, crayfishing, learning about nature, sledding and supporting each other masked and social distanced. The second to fifth-graders have met twice to sled and play kickball.” The cold winter months proved



Natalie, age 14, enjoyed needle felting the most.

a challenge for outdoor gathering and Workshop 13 was able to provide a one-of-a-kind art immersion experience for the sixth through 12th-graders of HYC. Desjardins said, “Through a fabulous collaboration with Workshop 13 and generous grants we have spent our winter months creating art,” Desjardins said. She is planning on continuing this collaboration with Workshop13 next winter as well. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. It was also made possible by funding from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation. Instructor Faith Ward, who teaches Art is for Everyone in Monson, led most of the classes with the students. Ward said the HYC students learned “more

stuff than they would in college,” from needle felting, to photography, to paper mache and pottery. She said the students provided input on different techniques they wanted to learn and she and other Workshop 13 instructors provided the guidance. “It’s been a wonderful togethering of HYC and Workshop 13,” said Ward of the experience. All the HYC youth involved in the Workshop13 art classes, had positive things to say about the experience. While they found some of the techniques challenges, they were all proud of their results. Morgan, age 13, said making a paper mache “big head” was the hardest technique to master, but making a clay dish in the ClayWorks studio was her favorite experience. “The Workshop 13 program was a great experience with all

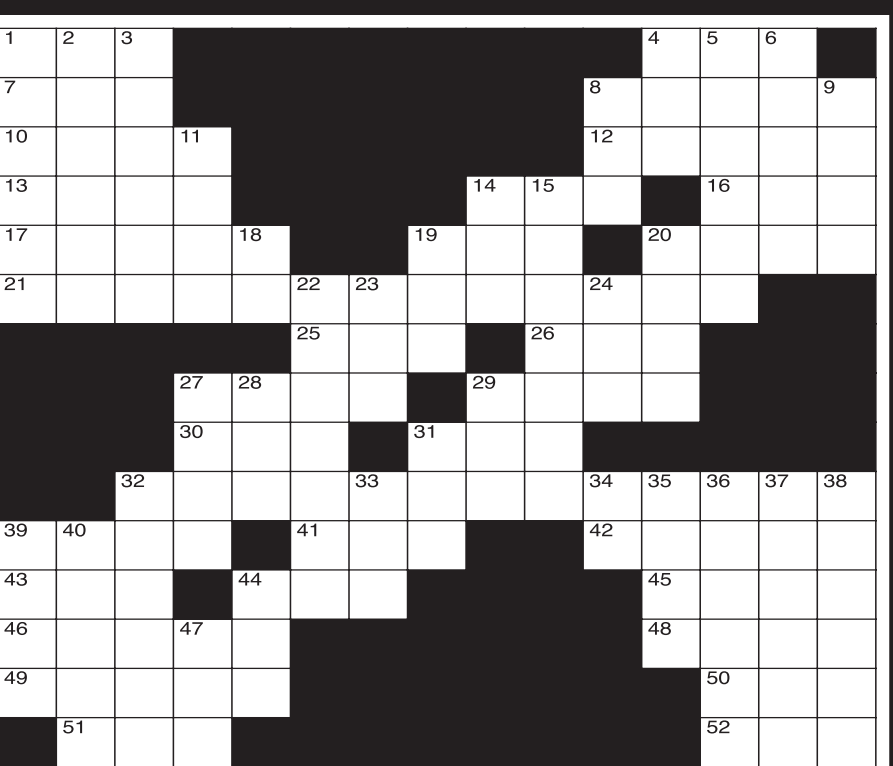
involved; it was great for the youth to try different types of art, to take risks and to discover in themselves what passions they may have,” Desjardins said. “Art truly is for everyone - not every medium but one aspect - which was great we got to try so many types so the youth could experience art.” Reilly said HYC is unique to other youth programs as it receives funding from the town each year. “The town supports the HYC in its annual budget... and Hardwick is the only town in the Quaboag and Quabbin Regions that does that —that is how remarkable it is,” she said. HYC also relies on grants from the state, and donations from local businesses and individuals. “Everyone in town benefits and knows this,” Reilly said of the program. “Families whose chil-



Sadie, age 12, holds up her favorite photograph she took.

dren attend. The children as they grow up and become volunteers with younger kids and the town,” she said. “HYC youth are very fortunate to live in a town where the people see the importance of a youth center and financially support it,” Desjardins said. “We are very thankful to the town and to the individuals who donate supplies and money.” Desjardins said, “we focus on meeting youth ‘where they are’ without passing judgement. We strive to increase youth self-esteem, social-emotional wellbeing, and promote creating a ‘team atmosphere’ where the youth begin looking out for each other. HYC youth Natalie, age 14, said the center provides the space to meet people and form friendships. “It also allows me to go new places in the town I live and nearby,” she said. Jocelyn, age 13, said

HYC allows youth to “express yourself in a way you wouldn’t in other places.” Ethan, age 13, said he liked “getting to see his friends” at HYC. Lindsey, age 13, said she likes the inclusiveness of HYC and “how nice people are.” In addition to the collaboration with Workshop13, HYC has also partnered with the East Quabbin Land Trust to provide outdoor learning experiences. Older HYC youth will continue to meet weekly for outdoor activities through the spring and early summer. Desjardins said HYC is hopeful all age groups can begin meeting in the fall. People can support HYC by making donations to the Town of Hardwick and designating those funds to the Hardwick Youth Center. People may also contact Reilly at 413-477-6635 if they have questions or want to talk about needs and gifts.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
4. American time
7. Satisfaction
8. Diving duck
10. Very small amount
12. Metrical units
13. An ignorant or foolish person
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. It may sting you
17. Turn outward
19. Perform on stage
20. “CSI” actor George
21. Localities
25. Make a choice
26. Indicates position
27. One of Thor’s names
29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
30. “The Raven” author
31. Take in solid food
32. Legendary QB
39. Sorrels
41. Organization of nations
42. Texas pharmaceutical company
43. Mathematical term
44. Expression of disappointment
45. Abba __, Israeli politician
46. Hide away
48. Salad restaurant
49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
50. Men’s fashion accessory
51. Political action committee
52. Unhappy
CLUES DOWN
1. Make unhappy
2. Heard the confession of
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Fiddler crab
5. Brazilian dances
6. Fit with device to assist breathing
8. Brother or sister
9. Pastries
11. “Lone Survivor” director Peter
14. Boat type (abbr.)
15. Apertures (biology)
18. Suffix
19. Creative endeavor
20. Icelandic poem
22. Spanish dances
23. Town in Central Italy
24. Cars need it
27. Mimics
28. Rocky peak
29. Cigarette (slang)
31. One point south of due east
32. Soap actress Braun
33. Large domesticated wild ox
34. Island nation
35. Appear
36. Addictive practices
37. Loss of control of one’s body
38. Type of poster
39. Greek mountain
40. Funny person
44. One and only
47. Pouch

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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WARE RIVER NEWS

Board reorganizes, Kemp now chair

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer
HARDWICK – The Board of Selectmen met on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This was the board’s first meeting since the town election last Monday. Member Julie Quink nominated Kelly Kemp as chairman. The board unanimously approved Kemp as chairman. Quink then nominated herself as vice-chairman and new board member Robert Ruggles as clerk. Both nominations were also unanimously approved. **Appointments** Gail Ann Anderson requested an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a two-year term, which would expire in 2023. The board approved this appointment. **Mayflower account quote** The Board of Assessors sent a letter recommending the acceptance of the Mayflower Personal Property Class 504 Account quote. The total cost of the services Mayflower will provide for fiscal 2022 will be \$1,800. The board accepted the Board of Assessor’s recommendation. **Eagle Hill PILOT agreement** Kemp asked Eagle Hill School Headmaster Dr. PJ McDonald if he was aware of this PILOT invoice agreement for fiscal 2021. McDonald said he is aware and all set. He said nothing looks out

of place, values have gone up, and they “get it.” **In-person meetings** Kemp said she sees other towns are beginning to have in-person meetings and wanted to see where the rest of the board stood on that. Ruggles said he would be in favor of in-person, for ease in handling paperwork. Comerford asked if virtual meetings would still be available. Kemp said they would do both. McDonald said the school has purchased Owl technology to assist with virtual meetings and would be willing to let the town use it. Quink said the town does have Owl technology as well. Quink said they should check with the Board of Health regarding in-person meetings. Quink said they should also learn how to use the Microsoft Teams platform. **List of ‘moving targets’** Quink said Town Administrator Theresa Cofske helped compile a list of “moving targets,” or issues the town will be facing in the future. One of the things Quink wants is to have is more collaborative meetings with other boards and committees. Finance Committee Chair Cheryl Wolfe said they will be meeting the last Monday in April to discuss the fiscal 2022 budget. They will have a joint meeting on Monday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. Another item on the list included the USDA grant for the sewer project. She said she will check

in with Cofske about any updates. Ruggles asked the board if they thought they should talk with McDonald about the school’s response. Kemp said they did agree to meet with each other and both counsels. Quink said she feels hopeful they can move forward quickly. McDonald agreed they needed to move forward together and welcomed conversation with the board. Wolfe reminded those present that there are rules that the selectmen abide by as far as meeting publicly. Kemp said she would follow up with Cofske. Erik Fleming recommended to Kemp that one of the board members contact town counsel directly. **ATM date** Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos suggested to have an annual town meeting only, as there was no real need for a special town meeting. The date will be Saturday, June 19, at 9 a.m. **Community Host Agreements** Comerford asked if the Planning Board could receive copies of marijuana Community Host Agreements when the town receives them. The Planning Board did not have a copy of the CHA for a recent community outreach meeting by Budding Botanicals. **Agenda** A resident commented that the agenda posted online with the meeting link, was different than the one they shared in this meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued from page 1
2021 budget update Nixon said this year’s budget, FY 21, was doing great. Revenue received was at 80%, five percent above the 75% number expected at this time. Nixon offered to include graphs in the monthly reports he presented to the finance committee. **Warrant articles** With only three members attending, which included Russell

and Maria Tourigny and Rayne, the committee chair opted to defer the discussion of the ATM warrant articles when the full committee was present. **America Rescue Plan Act** The acting town administrator said Hubbardston’s share of America Rescue Plan Act federal funding was estimated at \$1,400,000. He said brood guidelines included for recovery and economic development associated with the COVID lockdown, help for local businesses impacted by the lockdown and infrastructure like water, sewer and broadband.

The town would receive the ARPA funds in two checks: one in 2022 and the other 2023. It must be used by 2024. Nixon said the government was not clear if this was a calendar year or fiscal year. Nixon said the town should receive guidance within 30 days. **Other business** The finance committee will schedule a meeting after the acting town administrator meets with his counterparts in the five Quabbin District towns – Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree and Oakham.

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North Brookfield

STM/ATM set for May 7; town election is May 3

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, April 13, at 6 p.m.

The Special Town Meeting will be held May 7, at 6 p.m., followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 7 p.m. in the elementary school auditorium. Kiley said they will open the ATM on May 7, but will keep it open until June 4 as they do not always have budget numbers in May, so they move those to June. Kiley said the STM will consider is a lot of transfers between accounts.

The board reviewed the articles for the STM that included numerous account transfers for various departments. They also reviewed the ATM warrant. The first article on the ATM warrant is the election on Monday, May 3. Kiley encouraged people to vote in their local election. Article 16 of the ATM was a petition circulated by a resident for the town to appropriate \$22,500 to correct storm-water flooding on Summer Street. Kiley said they are required to put

this article on the warrant, but they are not in support of it, and neither is the Finance Committee. Kiley said the town voters will be able to decide.

Regionalization committee

Petraitis said the Regionalization Committee is meeting on April 28. They may have a recommendation regarding which school district to pursue regionalization with at that time. Kiley said they will have it on the STM warrant anyway in case they can act on it.

61A land

The board received a request to remove about half an acre of land out of 61A agricultural land classification at the Gustafson property on Lane Avenue. Barre said they planned for a solar field on the property and need to make the access road bigger. She said the Conservation Commission and Planning Board have already signed off on it. Clerk John Tripp said the Planning Board asked to put the telephone poles into the tree line, instead of the orchard, on Old East Brookfield Road.

Tripp said when they did that, it became part of the Gustafson property which was in 61A classification. Tripp said the telephone poles are screened from sight being placed where they are. The board approved the removal of the land from 61A classification.

Disc golf course

Vice Chairman Jason Petraitis said that all nine baskets are in and the trails are cleared at the disc golf course located at North Brookfield Town Forest Park. Petraitis said they are hoping to have a grand opening on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. He said they are considering having a tournament and an introduction to the park for residents who may not know about it. Petraitis said they will have discs on hand for newcomers to the game to use, along with instruction from regular players of the course. He said if they had enough interest, they would like to expand the course in the future.

Tripp asked if they needed more help clearing trails. Petraitis said they could use more help on the weekend, weather permitting.

Petraitis said the corner of routes 148 and 67 needs to be mowed and cleaned up. He said it could also use some bushes or other landscaping at that corner to improve the appearance.

Tree removal

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit spoke to the abutters regarding the removal of trees on the Water Department property. Benoit said the abutters are all in favor. Kiley asked how they were paying for the tree removal. Benoit said it would come from the tree expenses and they could do most of the work this year. Tripp said the road gets ice buildup due to the shade from the trees. Benoit said he is going to mark the trees to be saved. Tripp volunteered to go with Benoit to mark the trees.

Donovan Road property

One article on the STM warrant involves the town's ability to purchase the property at 63-65 Donovan Road. The business owner is planning to relocate and is looking to sell the property to the town. Tripp said the town must agree to this purchase.

He said the Fire Department and Highway Department will both benefit from this, as will the town as it will receive revenue from the storage units.

Rail Trail rules

Tripp went over the Rail Trail rules and regulations that were drafted for people that use the trail. Tripp said use of the trail is at peoples' own risk and no motorized vehicles are allowed. He said trail users need to be considerate of each other and the trail is only open from dawn to dusk. Trail users need to respect the privacy of adjacent property owners by staying on the trail, and littering is strictly prohibited. Walking, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing are allowed. Horseback riding is also allowed if horse owners pick up after their horses. Dogs are allowed on leash and owners must pick up after their dogs. Tripp said someone put signs up reminding people to pick up after dogs and he thanked them for doing so. Tripp encouraged people to get out and enjoy the open space North Brookfield has to offer.

Cider Mill project

The board received and signed an extension agreement with Fuss & O'Neill, the engineers working on the Cider Mill Road/Coys Brook project. Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said the project is going to take long than they anticipated, but it is all set to move forward.

Warrants

The following warrants were read and approved: Payroll Warrant #12, \$347,639.03; CDBG Warrant #1053, \$22,098.82; General Warrant #1054, \$51,906.29; and School Warrant #1052, \$33,744.22. The Fire Department received a \$10,000 grant from the state to purchase pagers. The CDBG grant management agreement was approved by the board.

Appointments

The board made a motion to appoint Mark Sawyer of West Brookfield, currently on the Barre Police Department, as the new full-time police officer at the recommendation of Police Chief Mark Smith.

The board entered into executive session at 7:09 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON continued from page 1

Lombard Road. The town funds 10% and the state 90% of the purchase of development rights on the property. There were also articles for \$4,000 for administrative costs of the CPA Committee such as legal review, postage, attendance at CPA meeting, etc.; \$33,000 for interior work on the library and \$20,000 for exterior brick re-pointing and landscape of the library. The warrant also included a sign bylaw presented by the planning board.

DPW director requested

Department of Public Works director, Travis Brown, asked permission to spend money in his budget to purchase a used spray system for applying brine to the roads. He said it was a "really good investment for the town." He said advantages of the brine treatment used less salt, less corrosion, costs less than rock salt treatment, can be applied a few days before a storm, stays in place rather than scatter like rock salt and can be used on dirt roads for dust control. He said one treatment of rock salt used 20 tons while one treatment of brine used 2,400 gallons.

Brown said a new system would cost about \$18,000 and did not include tanks and the PTO pump for the truck to run it. The used system had two tanks, the PTO pump as well as the anti ice system and was \$14,200. He said

brine was available for purchase the next town over and the price reduced with large volume purchases.

CHA change

Damon Schmidt requested a change in the Community Host Agreement with the select board for the marijuana grow facility on 69 Gardner Road. He said since he did not have a drying building constructed on the property yet, he planned to flash freeze his crop wet and transport elsewhere to dry. Schmidt said five pounds wet marijuana equaled one pound dry. The present CHA called for the town receiving \$30 per pound and he did not want to pay that much for one pound of wet marijuana. He asked to change, just for this year, to \$30 per five pounds wet.

Selectman Kris Pareago said he needed more clarification before making a decision. The select board asked Schmidt to send the language for the modification so the board could send the request to town counsel.

Update on Main Street reconstruction

Select board chair, Dan Galante, gave an update on the Main Street reconstruction project. He said the state need a letter of commitment from the town that it will maintain a planting bed at Williamsville Road and Main Street by the church. The DPW director provided the letter. Galante said all people with land needed for the right of way would be notified. He

said over 90% usually donate the land and the town had an article on the ATM for \$15,000 to cover costs for residents, who do not wish to donate the land. The project also included tree removal and there would be tree hearings in the future.

Other business

The board waved the right of first refusal on a 61.5 acre parcel off Brigham Road by Old and New Westminster Roads. The land will remain in the Chapter 61 program.

Brian Scales of RCAP Solutions said it received a grant from Mass Health to assist people with private wells with testing for natural containments. RCAP Solutions would be working with MassDEP on the program. The testing would be on a first come, first serve basis. Scales said a postcard mailing would be sent to Hubbardston residents directing them to a web page. He said all testing would be confidential with homeowners.

Select board vice chair, Jeff Williams, said there was an accident at Brigham Road and Rte. 68 recently. He wondered what could be done to alleviate this bad intersection. Galante said the town common project addressed the issue in the road redesign. It included cutting back an embankment to improve visibility and tapering the road coming from Holden to slow traffic. The select board will bring up the topic at an upcoming meeting.

OSV celebrates Earth Day

STURBRIDGE – Earth Day, Thursday, April 22 at Old Sturbridge Village will feature a host of special talks on weather, nature, composting, and more. Village gardeners will prepare for the growing season.

The topic on Friday, April 23 is trees. From chestnut to hickory, many tree species played a vital role in the forest ecology and regional economy of New England in the 1830s. People may visit the Cooper shop, woodland walk and sawmill to learn more about these iconic New England plants.

Saturday, April 24 the topic is wild and cultivated herbs. Guests

can meet and speak with costumed historians about wild and cultivated herbs popular in the 19th century and visit the households to see how these seasonal foods found their way into the rural New England diet.

Sunday, April 25 the topic is stewardship: native and non-native species. Many nonnative species are challenging the populations of the native flora of New England. Iconic species such as the American elm, hemlock and maple all face threats from invasive plants, fungi and insects. People will learn how they can help protect native plants through one of

the many talks given on this day at the village.

The village will be open between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$14 for youth (4-17), \$14 for college students and free for children ages 3 and under. All visitors and members will be required to purchase and/or reserve their tickets online to manage capacity by following current Massachusetts guidelines. People may purchase or reserve tickets and see the current policies at www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/. Please note that certain activities, like cannon demonstrations, are weather-dependent.

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This week’s mystery photo is from New Braintree. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 26. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Bill Fichtel, Rosemary Horan, Barbara Kempfski, Rene Lafayette, Evelyn Luukko, Jane McCauley, Lynn Oaks, Paula Paquette, Paul Talafor, Bruce Townner and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the bandstand at Curtis Recreation Field, Rte. 68, Hubbardston.

DMV extending grace period for expired inspection stickers

REGION - Due to the nation-wide system outage of motor vehicle inspection services by its vendor Applus Technologies impacting inspection stations and motor vehicle owners, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is extending a grace period for specific motor vehicle inspection requirements.

The requirements are outlined below and include an extension which now allows vehicle owners with expired March 2021 and April 2021 inspections stickers to have through May 31, to obtain inspections. The RMV is working in close partnership with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Massachusetts State Police and other stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of the outage.

The RMV is allowing a grace period for certain expired motor vehicle inspections. The RMV has advised law enforcement that compliance with the safety/emissions inspection requirement has not been possible since March 30, in light of the outage caused by the malware attack against Applus.

Motor vehicles with expired inspection stickers from March 2021 (“3” sticker on windshield) and April 2021 (“4”sticker on windshield) are extended until May 31, to obtain an inspection. Newly purchased vehicles registered on or after Tuesday, March 23, 2021, should be granted until April 30, 2021, to obtain an inspection. Newly purchased vehicles must typically be inspected within seven days of registration.

Customers who recently had an inspection rejection and are in the 60-day free retest window will be afforded one extra day for each day Applus’s system remains unavailable but should plan to facilitate their inspection as soon as possible once the system is restored and stations are online.

Status of vehicle inspections

Applus Technologies, a vendor that facilitates vehicle inspections in Massachusetts and several other states, experienced a cyber-attack in several states on March 30, preventing the RMV’s vehicle inspection stations from conducting vehicle inspections statewide.

The RMV will hold the vendor accountable for this disruption and is working with Applus to restore services as soon as possible. Applus has indicated that their systems will be operating by Saturday, April 17, in Massachusetts and the Registry will continue working with the vendor to meet this goal.

It has been 15 days since the Registry learned of the Applus cyber-attack, and the outage has had a significant impact to the many business owners who employ staff to deliver vehicle inspection services to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

For additional information and details on these and other RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

Second Chance to host hybrid dinner auction May 15

EAST BROOKFIELD – Tickets are now on sale for Second Chance Animal Services’ 22nd Annual Dinner Auction. The fundraiser, to be held May 15 will give attendees the option to pick-up their meal in advance and join the festivities online or attend the event in person that evening at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. Either way, supporters will be helping pets in need while enjoying a delicious meal and bidding on the opening block of auction items.

Development director Lindsay Doray is excited to offer the option for a limited number of supporters to attend in person. “Earlier this year we renamed the event Fetch! Sit! Stay! - meaning supporters would fetch their meal, sit down at home to enjoy the meal and stay tuned for the kick-off of the online auction. When we learned that state restrictions would be easing, we immediately reached out to Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center to see what we could do. Together we came up with the hybrid plan to give supporters a choice to participate that made them comfortable.”

Second Chance is now accepting sponsorships and item donations for the dinner auction. Doray is grateful to the many sponsors who have already stepped up to support pets, including RE/MAX realtor Wendy Johnson who was also last year’s major sponsor.

Doray shared a special appeal for pet lovers who also want to support local restaurants called Plates for Pets. “For over 20 years, local restaurants have been our partners, helping pets in need by donating gift certificates for our dinner auctions and golf tournaments. We know times are

tough for our restaurant friends right now, so we’re encouraging supporters to consider purchasing gift certificates to local restaurants to donate to Second Chance for our upcoming Annual Dinner Auction.”

The annual dinner auction is Second Chance’s largest and most important fundraiser, providing funding for all the programs that help pets in need from adoption services to vaccine and spay/neuter clinics to access to veterinary care for all.

For anyone interested in sponsoring, donating or participating in the Fetch! Sit! Stay! Dinner Auction, complete information and tickets can be found at www.secondchanceanimals.org/fetch.

For more information, visit Second Chance’s website at www.secondchanceanimals.org. Donate today at <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate/>

Purple Martins helps spring get going

In a sure sign that spring is not far behind, the first Purple Martins of the year have been spotted in Massachusetts.

The birds were seen on April 3, in the town of Mashpee by a Purple Martin enthusiast – one of many people throughout the eastern and central United States who track and report on the birds’ annual migration on behalf of the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

“The Purple Martins arrival in Massachusetts show the birds are making steady progress northward since they first made landfall in Florida two days before Christmas,” said Joe Siegrist, president of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. “Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we’re doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds.”

North America’s largest species of swallow, Purple Martins winter in the rainforests of Brazil before making up to a 7,000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.

The annual migration is a testament to the martins’ resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of ‘martin landlords’ who maintain multi-compartment nest ‘condos’ that are essential for the birds’ survival. Once wide-



Courtesy photo

Purple Martins have arrived along with spring.

spread in rural America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.

“The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change,” said Siegrist. “Over the majority of the Purple Martins’ range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains.”

Siegrist says the very survival of the species is due in large part to scores of dedicated conservationists who invest their time, money and hearts into maintaining housing for the martins.

“The landlords provide critical shelter for the martins,” Siegrist said. “In return, they are rewarded with a family-like bond with the birds who return to the same colony year after year like clockwork.”

To follow along with the Purple Martins’ migration and learn more about how you can help conserve this treasured bird, visit www.purplemartin.org. In addition, people interested in learning more about how to attract and care for Purple Martins can receive a free booklet by contacting the Purple Martin Conservation Association by emailing info@purplemartin.org or calling 814-833-7656.

Based in Erie, Pennsylvania, the Purple Martin Conservation Association is an international tax- exempt, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the Purple Martin through scientific research, state of the art wildlife management techniques and public education.

The PMCA serves as a centralized data-gathering and information source on the species, serving both the scientist and Purple Martin enthusiast. The PMCA’s mission is educating martin enthusiasts in the proper techniques for managing this human-dependent species.

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STITCHERS continued from page 1

children in Hardwick. The Naughty But Nice Stitchers, due to the pandemic, started up in August after the library closed from March to April. Librarian Payne says the Gilbertville Public Library is one of just a few libraries open.

The group can always use donations of yarn, used if clean or new. People may drop off yarn donations at the Gilbertville Public Library, Rte. 32, during regular hours Tuesday and Thursday from 2-6 p.m. and Friday from 4-7 p.m.



Turley Publications Photos by Ellenor Downer

Shown with some of the about 50 Afghans knit or crocheted by members of the Naughty But Nice Stitchers, who meet at the Gilbertville Public Library on Thursday afternoons along with Heather Stewart, representing Camp Putnam are front row from left, Chloe Moriarty, Eleanor Czabaj and Evelyn LaBelle and back row from left, Lynne Deschamps, Heather Stewart and Linda Payne.



These are some of the Afghans donated to Camp Putnam.

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File photos
Kyle Nastasi makes a catch during a 2019 game for Quabbin. Nastasi had three touchdowns in the last two games for the Panthers.

Panthers finally get first win

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

GARDNER – After a bit of a delay, the Quabbin Regional High School football team was finally able to get back on the field.

On Monday afternoon, the Panthers finally were able to pick up their first win of the Fall 2 season, defeating Ayer-Shirley High School in an offensive slugfest 48-35.

The game featured a lot of scoring with Quabbin doing most of it in the first half.

Ayer-Shirley may have scored three of the final four touchdowns in the game, but Quabbin already had a strong lead at that point.

It started with an Aiden Notarogiacomo touchdown reception. He took a pass from quarterback Brandon Arsenaault, and ran it more than 60 yards to the end zone for a touchdown. The point-after kick failed, however, it was just a 6-0 lead for the Panthers.

Ayer-Shirley answered back with a score, but it was a quick turnaround as Owen Faulha had a one-yard run for a score to make it 20-6.

Next Notarogiacomo, got his second touchdown pass of the quarter with a 16-yard reception to make it 20-6 after just one quarter.

Kyle Nastasi had the only touchdown in the second quarter with a three-yard touchdown run. Nastasi kicked the extra point as well to make it 27-6, the score when the whistle for halftime blew.

Notarogiacomo would score on a third touchdown pass from Arsenaault and Nastasi had a 49-yard touchdown run in the



Owen Faulha assists in a defensive play. Faulha had 150 yards rushing in Quabbin's win over Ayer-Shirley.

third quarter to make it 41-8. Arsenaault scored a touchdown on his own in the fourth quarter.

While Faulha only had the short touchdown run, he amassed 150 yards on the ground to account for plenty of the Quabbin offense.

Quabbin fell against Lunenburg in a tough game 38-6 on April 9, with Nastasi scoring the Panthers only touchdown in

the second quarter on an impressive 64-yard run.

Otherwise, the game was owned by Lunenburg, which used to be a Thanksgiving rival with Quabbin. The teams have since changed opponents in the past couple of years, but they continue to play each other in the regular season.

See FOOTBALL, page 10

MIAA activity picking up

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – It has been a rarity for a team from Western Massachusetts to qualify for the Division 1A tournament, a special tournament for select elite teams in various sports.

A lot of questions have been raised about the future of the Division 1A tournament now that the state is going to a statewide tournament and eliminating the sectional tournaments.

Last Thursday, the Tournament Management Committee met to discuss the subject.

The Division 1A tournament will likely be delayed until 2025 in order to allow the MIAA and its various sport committee to compile four years of data under the new structure.

Division 1A tournaments are dependent on the sport, and not all sports hold one. Hockey, basketball, soccer, and baseball and softball are among the sports that could possibly hold tournaments. The 1A tournament has been held for hockey in previous years with Pope Francis, previously Cathedral, taking part in the tournament often.

Baseball has also been a sport that has had a 1A tournament in recent years, with many of the state's elite teams qualifying to play in it. The teams that qualify often would abandon their section tournaments to participate in the 1A event.

According to the proposal made to the TMC, any approved 1A tour-

See MIAA, page 10

Williams looking for another title run

SEEKONK – Two years ago, Ronnie Williams became the second driver not named Matt Hirschman to win a Tri Track Open Modified Series presented by All Phases Renovations championship. In 2021, he looks to do it again.

Williams, driving for veteran car owner Gary Casella, returns to Tri Track driving the familiar No. 25 he's taken to Victory Lane before, and hopes to be consistent enough to contend for the title at the end of the six-race schedule.

"Gary can be a clown when you're around him, it's fun," Williams said. "If you look at Gary, you might not think he can set up a race car... but every single place we go, we are fast. He wants to win, I want to win.... and we just work well together."

Williams is set for another busy year as a driver, competing full-time chasing his third SK Modified championship at Stafford Motor Speedway, while also running with the Tri Track Series and some select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and Open Modified events. Over the last three years, Williams has become one of the quickest



Submitted photos

Ronnie Williams is among the drivers looking to make his way back to a championship this season.

and most successful rising stars the Modified ranks in New England offers.

"It's fun," Williams said of all of his driving ventures. "It's better when we are winning... last year we didn't have as much success

as we would have liked, but hopefully this year we can turn it back around and have some more fun."

Tri Track will visit three New England race tracks in 2021 -- Monadnock Speedway, Star Speedway and Seekonk Speedway.

Williams has previous wins at Monadnock and Seekonk, but has yet to hold the checkered flag at Star.

"I don't have a ton of laps at Star but I love it," Williams said. "It's a weird little track. We almost had a win there in the SBM when Ron Silk beat us, which was a great race. It's one track that both Gary & I really want to win at this year. Hopefully we can get it done."

Williams knows the competition is going to be stout, and the path to wins, or the championship, will not be easy with Tri Track.

"You have a guy like Matt Hirschman racing and a lot of people from a lot of different parts of New England coming to run with Tri Track," Williams said. "It provides some of the best racing and brings the best drivers."

The Tri Track Open Modified Series presented by All Phases Renovations season begins on Saturday, May 1 at Monadnock Speedway. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit TriTrackModifieds.com and follow the series on social media.

Premier Lacrosse League coming to Gillette

FOXBOROUGH – The Premier Lacrosse League (PLL) powered by Ticketmaster announced today that the league will return to Gillette Stadium to kick off the 2021 season with an opening five-game slate June 4 through June 6.

"There's no better location to kick off our 2021 tour than Gillette Stadium," said PLL Co-Founder and CMO Paul Rabil. "Our inaugural weekend in 2019 was a huge success. The fans in New England are passionate, and the Patriots organization is exceptional."

The PLL season will begin at Gillette Stadium for the second time, getting underway with a primetime matchup between Cannons LC and Redwoods LC under the lights on Friday,

June 4. Saturday's slate includes a championship rematch between Whipsnakes LC and Chaos LC, followed by Archers LC taking on Atlas LC. On Sunday afternoon, Cannons LC will return to the field against Waterdogs LC, and the weekend will be capped off with a matchup between Chrome LC and Redwoods LC.

The PLL is a tour-based model featuring eight teams and the world's best lacrosse players. In addition to being full-time employees and receiving health benefits, players get equity stakes in the league – a first in professional sports. The league recently announced a merger with Major League Lacrosse, leading to the addition of the PLL's eighth

lacrosse club, Cannons LC.

The 2021 PLL season will include 11 tour stops from June to September. For the third consecutive year, PLL games will be distributed via an exclusive media rights agreement with NBC Sports Group with action being shown through a combination of NBC, NBCSN, and Peacock TV.

The PLL played its inaugural weekend at Gillette Stadium in 2019, and had announced plans to open the 2020 season at the home of the six-time Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots and New England Revolution before COVID-19 forced the adjustment of the season to a three-week quarantined and fanless tournament. Gillette Stadium has also hosted five NCAA

Men's Lacrosse Championships since 2008 and holds the NCAA Men's Division I Championship attendance record (2008: 48,970), the top three attendance records for Division I National Championship Games since 2012 (2012: 30,816, 2018: 29,455 and 2017: 28,971) and the top three Division II and Division III National Championship attendance records (2017: 31,560, 2008: 24,317 and 2009: 24,072). The venue hosted professional lacrosse games in 2015, and was recently awarded the 2025 and 2026 NCAA Men's and Division I Women's Lacrosse Championships.

Kraft Group President-International Dan Kraft, who was

See LACROSSE page 10

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups will continue to be open as the league still has open

roster spots for new players. Players who sign up in the first few weeks of the season should be able to be placed with a team.

The league's first games are scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

Monadnock opener set for next weekend

WINCHESTER, N.H. – On Saturday, May 1, Monadnock Speedway will be back in action for the 2021 Season. Although there will be some COVID19 restriction that will remain in place for capacity and social distancing, the speedway has added on 1400 more seats to accommodate the restrictions.

The season opener will be a two-day event this year with the Tri Track Modified Series as the headline on Saturday (May 1) and Granite State Pro Stock Series on (May 2). There will be a practice session held on Friday (April 30) from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The divisions scheduled on Saturday are 100 Lap Tri Track Modified Series, NHSTRA

Modifieds, Pro Truck Series, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Young Guns and Classic Lites. Race time is at 5 p.m. The Sunday line up will include 100 Lap Granite State Pro Stock Series, NHSTRA Modifieds, Late Models, Street Stocks, NELCAR Legends and Enduros. Race Time is at 2 p.m.

Advanced General Admission Tickets and Reserved Camping Sites area available for purchase at www.monadnockspeedway.com. Pit Admission tickets will not be available in advanced and are available for purchase on the day of the event.

For more information, go to the speedway's website at monadnock-speedway.com or call 603-239-4067.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

5 reasons why summer camp is a good choice for kids

Summer vacation offers students a respite from lessons and the routine of school. Children might once have eagerly awaited those final days of classes so they could lounge poolside, skip rocks across ponds and spend the long days of the season playing with friends. But many of today's youngsters spend much of their summer vacations indoors playing with their digital devices.

Perhaps that's why one of the last vestiges of the classic summer vacation escape — summer camp — remains such a viable option for parents who want their children to get outdoors once the school year ends.

Although kids needn't be in camp all summer long, a week or two can benefit campers of all ages. The following are five reasons why summer camp might be the right fit this year.

1. Explore talents. Summer camps help young people explore their unique interests and talents. Under an organized, yet often easygoing, camp schedule, kids can dabble in sports, arts and crafts, leadership, community support, and so many other activities that may not be fully available to them elsewhere.

2. Physical activity: Lots of camps build their itineraries around physical activities that takes place outdoors. Campers may spend their time swimming, running, hiking, playing sports, climbing, and so much more. This can be a welcome change for kids accus-

tomed to living sedentary lifestyles. Regular physical activity has many health benefits and can set a foundation for healthy habits as an adult.

3. Gain confidence. Day and sleep-away camps offer campers the opportunity to get comfortable in their own skin. Camps can foster activities in self-esteem by removing the academic measures of success and fill in with noncompetitive opportunities to succeed. Campers learn independence, decision-making skills and the ability to thrive outside of the shadow of their parents, siblings or other students.

4. Try new things. Camp gives children the chance to try new things, whether that's learning to cook, exploring new environments or embracing a new sport or leisure activity. Opening oneself up to new opportunities can build character and prove enlightening for children.

5. Make new friends. Camp is a great place to meet new people and make lifelong friends. Campers flood in from areas near and far. This provides kids with a chance to expand their social circles beyond their immediate neighborhoods and schools.

Camps benefit children in a variety of ways. Lessons learned in camp can strengthen values, build confidence, develop coping mechanisms when adversity strikes, and enable campers to make lifelong friends.



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How to help kids make friends at school

The average student likely spends more time at school and participating in extracurricular activities with classmates than he or she does at home. In close proximity to so many peers, it may seem like making friends would be a snap. However, some students have trouble connecting and can use a little push to make friends.

The family and parenting resource Parenting Science notes that research indicates that the most popular children are those who exemplify certain traits. These traits include being caring; a willingness to share; a willingness to offer help; and strong verbal skills. Children who embrace these traits may prove better at making friends. Parents may find that youngsters need some encouragement to build their social circles, and the following are some ways parents can offer that encouragement.

- Encourage kids to seek out someone on their own. It may be challenging to walk up to a group and introduce yourself. Encourage students to seek out someone who is alone and then strike up a conversation, which can be less intimidating than approaching a group. Emphasize to kids that other students may also be a little shy and looking to make friends.

- Practice conversation starters at home. Children can work with their parents to come up with topics that can help foster communication. These can include ice breakers and common interests, such as favorite television shows or video games.

- Teach kids approachable body lan-

guage. Wearing earbuds or exhibiting negative body language, such as crossed arms or avoiding eye contact, can make a person seem less approachable. Smiling, engaging in conversation and being friendly can make it easier to make friends.

- Ask teachers to help. The education resource Understood says teachers can give children responsibilities, such as the opportunity to hand out snacks or papers, which can build confidence and provide opportunities for kids to converse with their peers.

- Help children be active listeners. An active listener is someone who makes it clear that he or she is paying attention. Making eye contact, orienting the body toward the speaker and making relevant verbal responses are some active listening strategies that can help kids more fully engage with their peers. Feeling valued and listened to may encourage other children to be more friendly and engaging.

- Ask open questions. The social networking advisement site Young Scot suggests having students ask open questions, such as: "How was your summer?" or "What sports do you like to play?" These types of

questions can kick-start in-depth conversations.

- Join a team or club. Students often make friends in social or extracurricular settings, such as on a sports team. With a shared interest, it's easy to find topics to discuss.

Making friends in school can make time spent in the classroom more enjoyable for youngsters.



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Obituaries

Carol Elizabeth (Rice) Goldsmith, 87

BARRE – Carol Elizabeth (Rice) Goldsmith , age 87 passed peacefully on Saturday, April 10, 2021 after a short illness. She was the daughter of Laurence V. and Edith (Middlemiss) Rice of James Street, Barre and is predeceased by her sister, Dorothy Lou Franciose, and brother, Robert V Rice.

She leaves her husband of 64 years, Richard Allen Goldsmith: daughters, Susan Getz, Jenifer Swart and Cara Goldsmith; grandchildren, Ashley Davieau, Spencer Holbrook, Elliot Getz and Julia Getz, as well as nieces, nephews, four great-grandchildren and many dear friends.

Carol was a proud graduate of Barre High and from Northeastern University, Boston, as a laboratory technician, and worked at Heywood Hospital and Athol Hospital for many years.

She served as town Assessor in Athol and Barre, and was co-owner of Goldsmith’s Greenhouse and Nursery.

She loved her hometown, Barre and was active in town politics (finance committee), Historical Society, Barre Business Association, BH Alumni



Association and in organizing Barre High class reunions.

We will remember her quick wit and humor, as well as her loving, grateful, generous heart. Her friends and family will miss having long talks with her and her perceptive, intelligent, understanding ways.

She loved celebrating holidays and birthdays with family, her children and grandchildren, yearly family trips to Cape Cod, animals, flowers, church suppers, watching Boston sports teams and the simple pleasures of life.

There will be a Celebration of Life followed by private graveside ceremony on Saturday, May 1 at the Covenant Evangelical Church on South Street, Barre at 11 a.m. Fond remembrances of Carol are most welcome.

DEATH NOTICE

Goldsmith (Rice), Carol Elizabeth
Died April 10, 2021
Celebration of Life May 1
Graveside ceremony private

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – Beautiful harmony soared once again from the organ at the Tri-Parish Church celebrating in New Braintree on Sunday, April 18. Guest organist Deborah Kent soothed the parishioners with a delightful prelude of “What Wondrous Love Is This” and “Jerusalem, My Happy Home,” along with other arrangements to join in song.

All parishioners are pleased to be singing again, albeit with quieter voices than normally used! Jennifer Pollard inspired both the little ones and the big ones with a children’s sermon entitled “Squeezed.” The adult sermon, “Witnesses,” was compelling and thought-provoking.

The church is hosting its annual plant/bake/craft sale on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People may call the church office at 508-867-3306 to volunteer or ask questions. An administrative assistant has office hours by phone at that number every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. People may call then or leave a message any time.

All are welcome to attend the services on Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 25 will be in the New Braintree Church. Summer services beginning the first Sunday in May, May 2, at the Stone Church in Gilbertville.

Congregational church to hold drive-thru chicken barbecue May 1

BARRE – The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a drive thru chicken barbecue Saturday, May 1. Pick up time is 5-5:30 p.m. Cost is adults \$12 and children under 12, \$5. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 978-355-0140.

The Supper Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank every one, who has supported its drive thru dinners. The committee hopes to continue this until it is safe for all of people to be together again inside.

AARP analysis shows COVID cases and deaths declining in nursing homes

BOSTON – The latest release of AARP’s Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard shows that both cases and deaths in nursing homes declined in the four weeks ending March 21. Although these rates are improving, chronic problems in nursing homes revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, continue.

In Massachusetts, during the four weeks ending March 21, 2021, .49% of nursing homes reported a shortage of nurses or aides, down from 2.4% from the previous reporting period.

Deaths of nursing home residents in Massachusetts have significantly decreased from the previous period, dropping from a rate of .79 to .10 per 100 residents. New infections among residents and staff also declined to less than half of previous levels. Resident cases fell from 2.4 to .34 per 100 residents, and new staff cases declined from 2.4 to .49 per 100 residents.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the chronic, ongoing problems that have plagued the nursing home industry for decades, including staffing shortages, poor infection control, transparency, and accountability, said Mike Festa, AARP Massachusetts State Director. “Following the COVID-related deaths of more than 9,000 nursing home residents and staff in Massachusetts, now is the time to eradicate these failings that jeopardize the health and safety of nursing home residents.”

AARP continues to urge elected officials to act immediately, focusing this year on enact-

ing or making permanent the components of AARP’s five-point plan.

Prioritizing regular and ongoing testing and adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for residents and staff—as well as inspectors and any visitors.

Improving transparency focused on daily, public reporting of cases and deaths in facilities; communication with families about discharges and transfers; and accountability for state and federal funding that goes to facilities.

Ensuring access to in-person visitation following federal and state guidelines for safety, and require continued access to virtual visitation for all residents.

Ensuring quality care for residents through adequate staffing, oversight, and access to in-person formal advocates, called long-term care Ombudsmen.

Rejecting immunity for long-term care facilities related to COVID-19.

Establishing minimum nursing staffing standards

Ensuring progress is made so that in-person visitation can safely occur and facilitating virtual visitation

Creating a pathway for single occupancy rooms in nursing homes.

The complete Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard is available at www.aarp.org/nursinghomedashboard. For more information on how COVID is impacting nursing homes and AARP’s advocacy on this issue, wpowlw may visit www.aarp.org/nursinghomes.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Names and Titles of Jesus Pt. 2

Scripture employs an array of names and titles used in reference to Jesus. Each provides some unique insight into His nature and work. Moreover, each helps us to understand the role He should and must play in our lives, shaping how we live before Him. Let us take some time to briefly identify and explore the following designations of Christ:

1) Almighty

Jesus Christ self-identified as “the Almighty” in the following portion of Scripture:

Revelation 1:8

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

What does it mean that Jesus is “Almighty”? Firstly, the term speaks to Christ as being unrivaled in authority. The word for “almighty” comes from a root meaning “mountain”-portraying Him as one who is exalted far above human dominion. Simply stated, nothing in all creation can challenge His control of the universe! Secondly, the term speaks to Christ as being unlimited in power (i.e., omnipotent). The Bible affirms the power of Jesus to accomplish His good purpose in the earth. As the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed (Jer. 32:17), “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

To what degree do you recognize Christ as being supreme, sovereign, unmatched and unequalled? To what degree do you believe that He has the capacity to faithfully execute His Word and fulfill His purpose for you, your family, our community, this nation and beyond?

2) Alpha and Omega

In Revelation 1:8, Jesus also self-identified as “the Alpha and the Omega”:

Revelation 1:8

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

What is the meaning of this phrase? To begin, it must be noted that Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (i.e., similar to our “A and Z”). This indicates that Christ is the absolute source of all creation and history, with nothing being “outside” of Him. It all began with Him and it will all culminate with Him and His good design! The following quotation helps us to delve deeper into the significance of this designation:

“An alphabet is an ingenious way to store and communicate knowledge. For instance, the twenty-six letters of the English alphabet, arranged in almost endless combinations, can hold and convey all knowledge. Thus, Christ is the supreme, sovereign alphabet; there is nothing outside his knowledge, so there are no unknown factors that can sabotage His glorious purposes or Coming.”

To what degree do you see Christ as the end-all-and-be-all of life and living? To what degree do you recognize that the whole of your life is to consist in Him (Col. 3:1-4)? Do you understand that we are moving-inexorably-to His intended end (Rev. 21:1-8)?

3) Amen

The final title I want to explore today appears in Jesus’ words to the ancient church at Laodicea:

Revelation 3:14-19

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold-I am about to spit you out of

my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.”

“Amen” stems from a Hebrew word that refers to something as being “sure, certain and true.” As the divine “Amen” Jesus is the sure, certain and true foundation upon whom the promises of God rest. Moreover, being sure, certain and true, Christ will ensure that the promises of God are utterly fulfilled. Ultimately, “Amen” signifies both the veracity (i.e., trustworthiness) and ability of Jesus to execute the purposes of God.

To what degree do you look to Christ as the One who is sure, certain, and true? To what degree are you convinced that He is able and willing to accomplish His promises? Do you know the One who is faithful for time and eternity?

I close with the following passage (Heb. 13:8): “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” What was true of Jesus many centuries ago remains true today. What was claimed of Christ millennia ago will be true tomorrow and forever. I would call you to give yourself in faith to the One who is Almighty, the Alpha and the Omega, the divine Amen and so much more (as we shall note in subsequent publications).

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on our website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly of God South Barre
jamesfoley@newlifebarre.org
978-355-6407

Third Sunday of Easter

“The Power of His Presence!”

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com and Facebook page.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24 v 36b - 48

Introduction:

I am wondering whether you have had the experience of meeting someone whom you never thought you would meet or encounter... someone that made an impact on you; or maybe you were hoping to see, or hear from someone from your past, an old school friend whom you hoped you would see again after many years, someone you have been wondering about? Do you remember that feeling when you had those encounters? One experience that remains an extraordinary one for me, was the day former South African president Nelson Mandela was released from prison. It was quite an extraordinary day for us South Africans, because we did not in our wildest dreams believe or imagine that we would see him alive and freed in our lifetime. I remember the exhilaration and joy and amazement as we all rushed to the prison where he was held and released. There were lots of people, and we all traveled from there to the City of Cape Town to see him and hear him speak for the first time in pub-

lic after 27 years in prison. It is a day I will never forget. As I am reminiscing about that experience among others and also about your own experiences, my heart goes out to the disciples who may not have believed they would see their Lord, the Messiah in person again after He was crucified, died, and was buried in a tomb.

II. The Power of His Presence

The appearance of Jesus Christ to the disciples, left them with both doubt and fear on the one hand, as they thought He was a ghost; and on the other hand, with awe as this experience was beyond them and their human understanding of Him as He entered their space and time of loss and sorrow. There was a mix of emotions... disbelief, joy and amazement. They were still dealing with the empty tomb, and probably talking with one another about what He told them before His death, what the women told them about seeing Him, and what their strategy should be going forward. They may not have expected that He would appear to them, but maybe they were hoping quietly that they would somehow see Him again. And here He was, His physical appearance was that of the Christ who was crucified, wounded, and He still carried His wounds with Him, meaning He was not taken up to heaven where He would be glorified and transformed into His heavenly existence. His presence transformed their pain and sorrow into utter joy and hope.

Jesus’ appearance brings a message of peace to His distraught disciples. While the greeting is the greeting He taught them to use as they were entering people’s homes, it is especially an important greeting, as it brought a message of hope to a group of people in distress and worry and loss. His appearance brings reassurance and comfort to the grieving group. “Why are you troubled? It is I myself – look at my hands and feet!” Jesus said. After they still did not believe, He asked them for something to eat as proof that He is indeed risen and that He is here with them. Eating with them may not have had the purpose of fellowship, we do not know, but it certainly must have felt like the times they would eat and have fellowship together. It was a reminder of their special friendship. His appearance brought them spiritual enlightenment, as He took them back to what was prophesied about Him in the Old Testament, and as we are reminded of Him in the Temple right at the beginning of His ministry, quoting Isaiah 61, and the purpose of His ministry. The Christ would die, but rise again on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness will be preached to the nations. He opened their minds by speaking to them in those powerful words, words that would transform their despair into hope and purpose. He would then empower and commission them to carry the message of the Good News to the nations. We see at the start of Acts and into the first few chapters how these disciples who were witnesses of Jesus’ life and ministry became powerful messengers of the Good news.

Conclusion: The Power of His Presence for us today

While we cherish those who have made or are making an impact on our lives, we have someone in an even higher power who has shown us the power of the resurrection, the power over death and dying, despair and suffering, and loneliness. The Christ whom we follow is alive as He is sitting at the right hand of God, and is also present in our lives through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

In our own moments of worry and distress, we have the promise

See **SERMONS** page 14



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OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Christopher L. Eldredge to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, dated March 23, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40890, Page 128 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee for the Certificateholders, CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-7, recorded on January 15, 2010, in Book No. 45355, at Page 331

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for America's Wholesale Lender to The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-7, recorded on May 29, 2012, in Book No. 49039, at Page 163

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on May 6, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises located at 3234 Greenwich Road a/k/a

3208 Greenwich Road, Hardwick, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: A certain parcel of land, with the buildings thereon, situated on the westerly side of Greenwich Road, in Hardwick, MA and being shown as Lot # 3 on a plan of land owned by Karl D. Germain and Brenda L. Germain dated April 10, 1989, by Donald A. Para, R.L.S. and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 619, Plan 91. Beginning at an iron pipe at the northeast- erly corner of lot herein described, on the west- erly side of Greenwich Road and at the south- easterly corner of Lot #4. THENCE: S. 8 degrees 43' 26" W, along the westerly side of Greenwich Road, 213.18 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: N. 56 degrees 26' 19" W. along Lot # 2, 285.35 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: N. 54 degrees 14' 8" W. along Lot # 2 960.65 feet to a gun barrel; THENCE: N. 27 degrees 16' 55" E. along land now or formerly of Louis H. and Angelina Labier, 100.00 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: S. 60 degrees 23' 00" E. along Lot# 4 696.24 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: S. 34 degrees 23' 6" E along Lot # 4 177.21 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: N. 89 degrees 7' 35" E along Lot # 4 72.00 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: S.

69 degrees 8' 25" E. along Lot # 4 69.97 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: N. 74 degrees 42' 6" E along Lot # 4 42.65 feet to an iron pipe; THENCE: S. 60 degrees 36' 8" E. along Lot # 4 153.04 feet to the point of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed to me by Deed of Lu-Ann J. Eldredge dated April 6, 2006 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Book 38743, Page 264.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38743, Page 264.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, ease- ments, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other munic- ipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mort- gage, whether or not ref- erence to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by

certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provid- ed to purchaser for record- ing upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF CWABS, INC., AS SET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-7

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
19755

04/15, 04/22, 04/29/2021

Barre Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40, The Wetlands Protection Act, that a public hearing will be held on a Notice of Intent for Paula & Brent Bolger for the construction of a single family home within the 100-ft buffer

zone to two intermittent stream channels at property located at 242 Walnut Hill Road, Assessors Map E, Lot 5 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 63704, Page 118.

From: Paula & Brent Bolger
775 Worcester Road
Barre, MA 01005
To be held on **Tuesday, April 27th at 7:45 p.m. via Zoom** and at the Conservation Commission Office on the 3rd floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005.

Ronald Rich
Chairman
04/22/2021

Barre Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40, The Wetlands Protection Act, that a public hearing on an Amendment to the Order of Conditions, DEP #101-0319 for the replace- ment of structurally defici- ent culvert under drive- way to access ROW for property located at 629 Old Dana Road Assessors Map A19-D. Recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 2287, Page 523.

From: New England Power Company
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

To be held on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom** and in the Conservation Commission

Office on the 3rd floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005.

Ronald Rich
Chairman

04/22/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that High Hawk Farm LLC of 140 Worcester Rd Barre MA 01005 will conduct a Community Outreach Meeting on the following matter at **6:00 pm on May 3, 2021** at Higgins Powersports located at 140 Worcester Road, Barre MA 01005. High Hawk Farm, LLC intends to apply for the follow- ing Adult-use Marijuana license: Marijuana Product Manufacturing; at 286 School Street North, Barre MA 01005, pursu- ant to MGL Ch. 94 G and Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, other applica- ble laws and regulations promulgated thereunder, including those promul- gated thereunder by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. 04/22, 04/29/2021

Town of Barre, Massachusetts Department of Public Works Road Materials, Road Maintenance and Equipment Rental For the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 Invitation to Bid

The Town of Barre is accepting Road Materials, Road Maintenance and

Equipment Rental Bids for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The bid prices within the contract may be extend- ed by mutual agreement between the Town and the Contractor for up to two (2) 1-year options. The first option shall extend through June 30, 2023. The second option shall extend through to June 30, 2024.

Sealed bids, plain- ly marked, for the Road Materials, Road Maintenance and Equipment Rental items listed below, will be received at the Department of Public Works office, 441 Wheelwright Road, Barre Massachusetts 01005, **until 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021**, at which time the bids received will be opened and recorded.

Items to be bid:

1. Washed and screened sand
2. Screened sand
3. Crushed stone
4. Bank and processed gravel
5. Fiber or rubber crack filling
6. Full depth reclama- tion
7. Milling
8. Type I bituminous concrete
9. Cold Patch
10. Equipment rental with and without an oper- ator
11. Catch Basin Cleaning
12. Drainage Structure Rebuilding/Repair
13. Line Painting

Bid documents will be available beginning Wednesday, April 14, 2021

at the Barre DPW building, 441 Wheelwright Road, Barre Massachusetts, or by contacting Shannon O' Connor, DPW Administrative Assistant by email: dpw@townofbarre.com or phone at: 978-355-5013, Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Contractors bidding on Public Works Construction Projects estimated to cost \$50,000 or more must be pre-qualified with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Room 7552, Boston, MA 02116. All road materials shall con- form to the requirements of the MassDOT's standard specifications for highways and bridges. All contractors providing services to the Town must be bonded and fully insured.

Attention is called to the Minimum Wage Rates to be paid on the work as deter- mined by the Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety in accordance with the provi- sions of MGL c. 149 s. 26 and 27D.

The Town of Barre reserves the right to reject any and all bids deemed not to be in the best interest of the Town. Contract award is based on the lowest qualified, responsible bid received for each individual item.

For the Department of Public Works Commission, Shannon O'Connor DPW Administrative Assistant

04/22/2021

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Monday, April 12
8:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Wheelwright Road – Citation Issued

Tuesday, April 13
11:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop West Street – Citation Issued
11:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Wheelwright Road – Citation Issued
1:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:45 p.m. Property Damage Summer Street – Officer Advised
3:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Wheelwright Road – Citation Issued
Summons: Matthew C. Ludwig, 27, Barre
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No
5:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
6:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
6:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Barre Road – Citation Issued
6:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued

Wednesday, April 14
12:54 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Cedar Street – Ambulance

Signed Refusal
2:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
2:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
3:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Barre Road – Citation Issued
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
4:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South Street – Citation Issued
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
5:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued

5:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Valley Road – Citation Issued
5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
5:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Summer Street – Citation Issued
5:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Summer Street – Citation Issued
6:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued
6:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Mechanic Street – Citation Issued
6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Wheelwright Road – Citation Issued
8:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Main Street – Transported to Hospital
8:12 p.m. Breathing Difficulty South Street – Transported to Hospital
8:38 p.m. Panic Attack Exchange Street – Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, April 15
2:48 p.m. Harassment South Street – Officer Advised

Friday, April 16
6:55 p.m. Property Damage Worcester Road – Investigation (On-going)

Saturday, April 17
8:25 a.m. Seizures Peach Street – Transported to Hospital
9:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Cedar Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Sean Delvalle, 20, Charlton OUI-Liquor or .08%; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle

SOUTH BARRE

Tuesday, April 13
7:06 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Church Street – Officer Advised

Wednesday, April 14
10:31 p.m. Animal Bite Worcester Road – Information Taken

Thursday, April 15
5:36 p.m. Property Damage Elm Street South – Information Given

Hospital
8:55 a.m. Animal Bite Barre Road – Information Given
1:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Bullard Road – Written Warning
2:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Coldbrook Road – Citation Issued
5:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Citation Issued

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, April 11
11:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Written Warning
3:24 p.m. Animal Bite Prospect Street – Information Given
4:32 p.m. Falls Mark Circle – Ambulance Signed Refusal

Monday, April 12
5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Gabriel P. Acevedo, 18, Worcester
Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D
5:21 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Bullard Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal

Tuesday, April 13
8:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Emily Twinamasiko, 30, Lowell
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

11:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
11:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
11:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
12:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
1:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Glenwood Road – Citation Issued
1:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
2:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop

Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
3:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
6:58 p.m. Neighbor Dispute Cameron Drive – Report Filed
9:09 p.m. Missing Person Main Street – Information Taken

Wednesday, April 14
7:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
7:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
7:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Citation Issued
8:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
8:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Gerald J. Orre, 72, Rutland
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
9:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
9:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
9:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
10:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Citation Issued
10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Citation Issued
10:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Report Filed
10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, April 15
7:38 a.m. Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Main Street – Referred to Other Agency
1:33 p.m. Structure Fires Simond Hill

Road – Fire Extinguished
Friday, April 16
12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Fisherman's Road – Report Filed
12:48 p.m. Disorderly Conduct Maple Avenue – Report Filed
1:14 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Autumn Wood Drive – Report Filed
7:02 p.m. Seizures Bushy Lane – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 17
3:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Worcester Road – Transported to Hospital
11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
11:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
11:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued
1:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Citation Issued
2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
2:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Citation Issued
3:21 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Prouty Lane – Officer Spoke to Party
5:15 p.m. Seizures Charnock Hill Road – Transported to Hospital
8:44 p.m. Seizures Joanna Drive – Transported to Hospital

Hubbardston Police Log

Monday, April 12
4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Vehicle Towed
Summons: Alexis N. Clark, 21, Gardner
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Registration Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Tuesday, April 13
6:59 p.m. Neighbor Dispute Gardner Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, April 14
5:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop New Templeton Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Kristopher J. Blakely, 32, Bladwinville
Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID
6:42 p.m. Property Damage Ragged Hill Road – Report Filed

Thursday, April 15
10:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop New

Templeton Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Jon A. Jonsson, 59, Hubbardston
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
10:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire New Westminster Road – Report Filed
Summons: James F. Conroy, 75, Hubbardston
Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Speeding Rate of Speed Greater Than was Reasonable and Proper
1:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Bemis Road – Vehicle Towed
1:33 p.m. Structure Fire Simond Hill Road – Fire Extinguished
9:31 p.m. Property Damage Barre Road – Negative Contact

Friday, April 16
5:45 a.m. Fire, Arcing Wires Barre Road – Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, April 17

6:24 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Gardner Road – Referred to Other Agency
2:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
3:07 p.m. Falls Brigham Street – Transported to Hospital
4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
4:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued
4:52 p.m. Traffic Hazard Worcester Road – Criminal Complaint
Summons: Jonathan K. Roy, 31, Hubbardston
Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle
5:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop New Templeton Road – Citation Issued
8:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Brigham Street – Citation Issued
9:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued
9:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

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Public Safety

AARP offers monthly fraud watch

The AARP Fraud Watch Network provides people with tips and resources to help them spot and avoid identity theft and fraud so they can protect themselves and their family. Watchdog alerts will keep people up to date on con artists’ latest tricks. Report scams to local law enforcement. People may contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.

A key part of being able to spot a scam is knowing the red flags – those signs that suggest that what they’re confronting may not be legitimate. One of the biggest red flags these days is anyone, who tries to convince people they owe some debt or other obligation and the quickest way to address the issue is to purchase gift cards and share the information off the back.

Why gift cards? First, they are readily available. People see them at the grocery store, department store and hardware store. Second, it’s a way that criminals can get their

money instantly and the money is easy to move around. As soon as a target sends the numbers to the gift card they’ve purchased, the criminal is able to convert it to currency in an instant. Not surprisingly, the Federal Trade Commission reports that gift cards have been the most common form of payment in scams since 2018.

Anytime you are directed to pay a debt or other obligation with a gift card, it is a scam.

Tax time is here again and so are the IRS impostors. Scammers posing as IRS agents or Treasury Department officials are out there once again, calling to convince taxpayers that they owe back taxes and face immediate arrest. The IRS will initially contact people through the mail if they owe back taxes. If people receive an unexpected phone call, an email or a text indicating it’s from the IRS, do not engage. Report the scam attempt to the IRS at 800-366-4484 or www.tigta.gov. If people receive an email, forward it to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov, and then delete it.

2020 was the year of new twists on scams. There were COVID testing scams, miracle cure scams, stimulus scams and vaccine scams, but one scam stood out above them all. The Social Security impostor scam.

Social Security impostor scams continue to be the most prevalent in the United States. In 2020, the Social Security Office of Inspector General received well over 700,000 reports of Social Security impostor scams, and 70% of the calls to the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline were related to Social Security impostors.

Remember, the real Social Security Administration will not call people unless they are already in discussions with the agency on a particular issue. They certainly won’t threaten to cut off benefits or seek to “help” with an identity theft problem. Anyone who does is not from the Social Security Administration.

The ongoing remote world people are living in has many getting used to doing more of their activities virtually. When people can’t be face

to face, it makes for rich targets for adept scammers.

One trending scam is when a criminal impersonates clergy. The crook spoofs the e-mail address of a given faith leader and sends a message to a congregant requesting a favor. They will claim they are busy or out of town and just need people to purchase a dozen gift cards, which will be used to help congregants in need. All people need to do is buy them (say, \$100 each) and email a picture of the front and back of the cards. And of course, they will be reimbursed.

If people are ever asked to do a favor like this, take a pause and think, “Would this person really ask me to do this?” Contact the person and get validation they are who they say they are. And if the request was for gift cards, they’ll learn it was a scam attempt.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, people may call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraud-watchnetwork.

BBB offers travel tips

The Better Business Bureau recommends the following tips for those planning a trip to minimize the risks.

Understand the risks and delay plans if possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) points out “COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are extremely high across the United States.” Since travel increases the risk of infection, CDC recommends delaying unnecessary travel plans, to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. In addition, if anyone in the household or at the travel destination is at high risk of infection, everyone in the household should act as if they themselves are at increased risk of infection.

Research travel restrictions. Travel restrictions vary by state and country and are constantly changing. People may visit the U.S. State Department’s “Know Before You Go” page and the CDC Travel Planner to get up-to-date information on COVID-19 related travel restrictions as they plan their trip and as the travel dates approach.

Take precautions before and after the trip. During the 14 days leading up to the trip, avoid situations that could put them at risk for infection, such as attending large group events or using public transportation, recommends the CDC. Then, get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before they travel and keep a copy of their negative test results with them. After the trip, get tested again 3-5 days after arriving home and make plans to self-quarantine for 7 days after travel, regardless of their test results. The CDC also advises getting vaccinated, if eligible, and waiting until two weeks after the final vaccination dose to travel.

Pack a “pandemic bag.” Pack a bag with COVID-19 prevention staples including hand sanitizer, face masks, disinfecting wipes, health insurance cards, a thermometer, latex gloves (for one-time use in public spaces) and hand soap.

If people will be on the road for extended periods of time, it’s a good idea to bring drinks and snacks along too so as to avoid unnecessary stops in public places.

Make flexible travel plans. Flexibility is key during the pandemic. Be willing to pay extra for fully refundable flights, car rentals and accommodations. Plans may change last-minute due to an unexpected lockdown or infection.

Understand what travel insurance covers. CNBC reminds travelers that purchasing travel insurance is wise, but it may not cover every situation. Read the fine print or work with a travel agent to understand how the policy works. Most travel insurance will cover medical expenses if people get sick during their trip or the cost of their trip if they must cancel due to illness, but they may not cover the cost of the trip if people need to cancel because a state or city goes into lockdown unexpectedly.

Opt for a road trip instead of flying. Waiting in security lines and sitting on crowded flights will increase the risk of infection. People or anyone they’ll be in contact with is in a high-risk group, it’s best to drive. Road travel carries risks too, but it’s much easier to mitigate them.

Book accommodations that make it easy to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Travelers should find out what precautions and sanitary measures accommodations are taking in between guests. Wear a mask and social distance. CDC advises travelers to wear a mask, avoid crowded areas and stay at least six feet away from others whenever they are in a public space.

Enjoy the great outdoors. Hiking and camping at state and national parks are a great way to enjoy warmer weather since they don’t involve sharing indoor spaces with others. Travelers should book a campsite well in advance. Parks have become a popular pandemic vacation option and spaces are limited.

Fire Marshal announces no child deaths in fires for two years

STOW – There have been no deaths of children in fires over the last two years, and state officials are crediting education programs as one of the prime reasons for that statistic.

“On January 8, 2021, I announced that for the first time on record, there had been zero child fire deaths in a calendar year,” State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said. “Today (March 18) marks a new milestone. It has been two whole years since a child has died in a fire in Massachusetts.” The last fire that claimed a child’s life

occurred on March 16, 2019, in Pittsfield.

“I attribute this record-breaking milestone to the 26 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.). Firefighters and classroom teachers have raised a fire safe generation of children by teaching key fire safety lessons in an age-appropriate manner that fits with the state’s curriculum frameworks,” said Ostroskey.

“The collaboration between firefighter-educators and classroom teachers has made fire safety accessible to our youngsters who

brought these messages home to their families. Thank you,” Fire Chief Michael Newbury, president of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts said.

So far this year, there have been 12 fire deaths and 75% of the victims were people over 65. “Regardless of your age, make sure you have working smoke alarms that are less than 10-years-old on every level of your home and practice your home escape plan,” said Ostroskey. “You may only have one to three minutes to escape a typical house fire before being overcome

by toxic gases and extreme heat.”

Building on the success of the Student Awareness of the Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, the state created the Senior SAFE Program to reduce fire deaths among what is now the most vulnerable population – seniors. People over 65 account for nearly half of all fire deaths in the commonwealth.

Both the S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide grants to local fire departments to collaborate with local schools and senior service agencies to provide fire safety education.

Gobi’s legislation targets food insecurity

BOSTON – Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) filed legislation this session aimed at enhancing the stability of one of the most popular transitional assistance programs offered by the state, the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).

The bill filed by the Senator, SD. 1178, An Act relative to an Agricultural Healthy Incentives Program, codifies the program into law, and requires that a separate fund be established within the department of transitional assistance to ensure adequate funding for the program moving forward.

Gobi is the co-chair of the

Massachusetts Food Systems Caucus and a former chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. She had this to say on the bill, “I appreciate the overwhelming bipartisan support for HIP in the legislature. It is a program that provides people with nutritious food from our local farmers, helping our farms and farmers remain sustainable. Every dollar stays in the state, it goes to farmers and back into the local economy, helping farmers protect their land, helping protect the environment and helps people stay healthy being able to pur-

chase fresh fruits and vegetables over less healthy options.” Launched in April 2017, the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) provides a 100% incentive, a dollar-for-dollar match for each SNAP dollar spent on targeted fruits and vegetables purchased at farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs statewide. By increasing access to locally grown fruits and vegetables for SNAP clients, the program benefits family and community health, and support farms and the local economy.

Since its inception 85,000 families have earned HIP incentives, purchasing \$19.5 million in local foods that directly benefited more than 200 farms in the state. More than 63,000 households used HIP in FY21, totaling more than \$5 million in incentives being put back into the area. Estimates show that each dollar spent results in an additional \$1.12 in local economic impact as farmers contribute back to the local economy.

For more information on the program, people may visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-healthy-incentives-program-hip>.

SERMONS, continued from page 12

and certainty that Christ is with us through it all. Our physical challenges and those of our loved ones can sometimes be overwhelming, and it is when we cry out for help in those moments, when Christ appears and wants to comfort us, help us, guide us, and heal our lives.

Christ’s resurrection appearances are hopeful messages for us as well today. We have been given

hope, and we too have been given a commission as well, to continue spreading the Good News of love and peace and forgiveness and compassion for all those around us.

May He appear to each one of us in ways that will fill us with joy and amazement and hope for tomorrow and the days ahead. May the power of His presence transform our lives for the glory of God. Amen

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church

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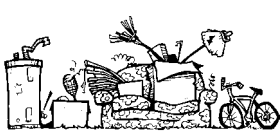
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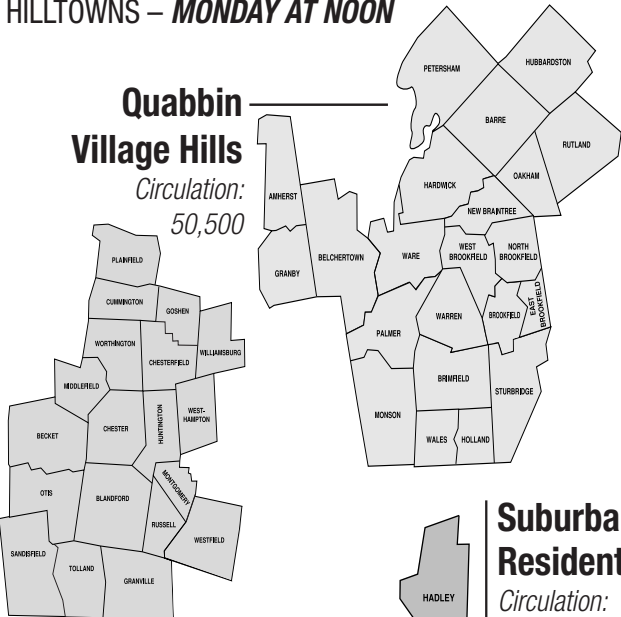
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Gobi supports legislation aimed at assisting business owners

BOSTON – Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) joined her colleagues in circulating letters supporting a pair of legislative initiatives aimed at assisting business owners, who were negatively impacted back the COVID-19 pandemic. The two bills, which require immediate attention by the legislature are aimed at concerns over taxing federal PPP loans and the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Gobi had this to say on the actions needing to be taken, “Our businesses have suffered during the pandemic and it is vital that they receive necessary assistance. As a co-sponsor of the bills I will work to make sure they pass as soon as possible to provide needed relief, the same relief large corporations receive as do small businesses across the country.” The first piece of legislation, An Act providing finan-

cial relief to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, would ensure that loans offered through the federal Paycheck Protection Program are not subject to state taxation, further burdening the business owners they were targeted to help. These loans are forgiven by the federal government and if the legislature does not take action before March 15 many small businesses may be forced to pay a 5% tax on

the income received through the program. The second letter circulated addressed support for Governor Baker’s bill H.55, An Act financing a program for improvements to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and relief to employers in the Commonwealth, which will freeze the experience rate of employers for calendar year 2021 and calendar year 2022 at rate schedule

“E” and ensure the solvency of the fund. During the pandemic many businesses were forced to lay off employees as a result of state-mandated closures and health concerns and without legislative action employers, who were paying \$539 in unemployment insurance taxes per worker in 2020 will see their rates jump significantly, to \$858 per worker. If enacted, the bill will provide timely relief for Massachusetts

businesses by freezing this scheduled rate increase, while also ensuring the positive solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund through bonding. If action is not taken, Massachusetts businesses will experience great economic hardship and unemployment may begin to rise once again. For more information, people may contact Senator Gobi’s office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

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